

health care costs on California, and the money that ought to go for the University of California or the University of Tennessee isn't there. Where does the university get the money to keep its excellence? It raises tuition.

Our former Democratic Governor, who just retired, said the health care law imposes on Tennessee more than \$1.1 billion in new costs between 2014 and 2019. That is an unfunded mandate from Washington that will cost the people of Tennessee.

Fewer jobs will be created as a result of this law. Someone might say: How can you say that? I will give an example. I met with a group of leaders of the restaurant industry in America. They are CEOs of all the big restaurant companies. They are the second largest employer in America. They hire a lot of low-income people. One of them said they had been operating their stores with 90 employees on the average, and as a result of the health care law, their goal was to operate with 70 employees. That is fewer jobs. And there were many other examples of that around the room.

Even the student loan takeover has created a problem because students are actually paying more in interest on their student loans to help pay for the new health care law, which I think a lot of students would not appreciate.

The health care law that was passed a year ago, which some believe is a historic achievement, we believe is a historic mistake. We believe it would have been better and will be better to, instead of expanding a health care system that costs too much, go step by step to reduce its costs so more people can afford insurance. We will continue to advocate that position. We voted to repeal the health care law. We lost that vote. But we are continuing to work.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's 8 minutes has expired.

Mr. ALEXANDER. With Senator JOHANNIS' leadership and others, we will work to repeal the 1099 provision. Senator HATCH and others are working to give Governors more flexibility in the Medicaid Program. And we will continue to advocate solutions such as allowing people to buy insurance across State lines.

Next Wednesday is an important anniversary. Some believe it is a historic achievement. We believe it is a historic mistake and that there is a better solution to health care costs.

I thank the leader for his courtesy in giving me a chance to go ahead.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when I was a little boy growing up, we used to

have chickens, and every morning the roosters we had would make the most noise, unbelievable noise they would make. Maybe those roosters thought that when they crowed, the Sun would come up, but it had nothing to do with that. I have been places where roosters do not crow and the Sun still comes up.

My friend from Tennessee is using the rooster analogy and has about as much factual foundation as the analogy I just gave about the Sun coming up when the rooster crows.

I was at a breakfast this morning. One of my friends, a former chief of staff to one of the Senators here, said to me: Passing the health care bill was a miracle in the lives of him and his family. Those are his words, not mine. They have a child who developed diabetes. They could not find insurance for that child. Because of the health care bill, that child is fully insured now. That is what the health care bill is about.

For my friend to complain about the health insurance costs going up, a little bit of facts would make a lot of difference in that argument.

The health care bill does not go into effect until 2014. Parts of it do, but the main impetus of the health care bill to cover the 50 million people who have no health insurance does not kick in until 2014. The insurance costs have gone up because insurance companies raised the premiums, as they always do. One of the reasons we did the health care bill is to rein in the health care companies around the country that are really bankrupting our country.

Let's talk about what is in effect with the health care bill and what will be in effect. I did not come here to debate the health care bill, but when something is so without foundation and fact, I have to respond.

People, such as my friend Bob, have had miracles in their lives all over America during the past year because of that health care bill having passed because a child under 18 who has a pre-existing illness cannot be denied insurance. Not only does it apply to children, every State in the Union has now set up programs for people who have long-term disabilities. Now they cannot be denied insurance. Not everybody gets that. You have to be uninsured for 6 months and other certain requirements, and it is not as good as for children under age 18, but it is pretty good.

I will also say this: Hundreds of thousands of students in college today have health insurance because their parents have health insurance. That is what we did in the law. We raised the bar on that so children can stay under their parents' health insurance for longer periods of time.

I am going to do an event next week in Nevada where we are going to have a number of businesses come together. People who employ fewer than 10 people whose average salary is less than \$25,000 can have health insurance for the employees, and they get a 35-percent deduction in their premiums. That

is because of the health care bill we passed. Mr. President, last year the IRS sent notices to 4.4 million small businesses in America to let them know that they may qualify for reduced premiums.

The health care bill is a very important bill. It is a milestone in the history of this country. We are setting up the exchanges now so everyone can have the same insurance I have. That is what it is all about. Millions of Federal employees have not perfect insurance but good insurance, as I have. My insurance is the same that an FBI agent has. Our goal is to make sure everyone in America has an opportunity to have insurance similar to ours.

The Presiding Officer may have a different health care plan than I have because every year—we are part of an exchange that we are going to set up for the 50 million people who have no health insurance. Every year, we get quotes from insurance companies, and we can buy different insurance. We can buy a Cadillac policy or maybe a Ford policy. We have a range of insurance we can buy. That is what we are trying and we have allowed America to have. Those exchanges are being set up in Nevada and other places around the country.

For people to talk about ObamaCare and let's get rid of it, get rid of it for what? Do we want my friend to go back to where he cannot get insurance for his child from these insurance companies whose interest is one thing—money, how much money they make? We have had to rein in those costs.

We keep talking about the cost of the health care bill. The Congressional Budget Office said it will reduce the debt of this country by \$1.3 trillion. That is not some number I made up; it is the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

I am convinced my friend was right. In his family's life, it was a miracle this past year because they had the ability to get insurance for their sick child.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:30 this morning, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

At 10:30 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S. 493, which is the small business jobs bill. We have been working through amendments on that legislation. Virtually every one of the amendments is not germane to the bill. That is OK. We are in the Senate, and that is how things work here. We have had scores of amendments filed. I am not going to file cloture on this bill today. We will work through the amendments, and maybe we can get a finite list of amendments when we come back. I hope we do not have to

file cloture on this bill. As I said, this is an extremely important bill.

Senator LANDRIEU was on a nationwide TV program today, and one of the commentaries—who, by the way, is a Republican, a former Member of Congress—said, and I am paraphrasing: Why would the Republicans want to hold up a jobs bill?

This is a jobs bill. The small business matter now before the Senate is a jobs bill, just as we did with the patent bill, just as we did with the FAA bill. It is a jobs bill. We should move on. We should have the amendments focused on how to improve a jobs bill and not do all this other extraneous stuff that virtually, without exception, has nothing to do with this bill.

At 12 noon, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 48, the 3-week continuing resolution. There will be up to 3 hours of debate on that matter prior to a vote on passage of the joint resolution.

Following the CR, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 11, the nomination of Amy Berman Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia.

We are going to have a briefing this afternoon for Senators at 2 o'clock dealing with the situation in the Middle East. That will be a classified briefing.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time used by my friend—he is my friend; I have the greatest respect for Senator ALEXANDER; he is a true gentleman—that the time he used in his speech be deducted from the Republican's time in morning business this morning. They have the first run at morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, next week does indeed mark the 1-year anniversary since the Democratic health care bill was signed into law. We all recall the debate quite well. It was the most partisan of debates. The only bipartisan moment was in the House when there was bipartisan opposition to the new health care bill. In the Senate, it was a strictly partisan vote—60 Democrats voted for it, 40 Republicans voted against it. If a single Democrat—even one—had changed their vote on that Christmas Eve, we would not be looking at the 1-year anniversary of the Democratic health care bill. This morning, I would like to look back on what we learned during that year.

Shortly before the final vote, then-Speaker PELOSI famously said that the

Democrats had to pass the bill so they could find out what was in it—away, as she put it, from the “fog of controversy.” Now that the fog has lifted, the question arises, What do we know now that we did not know then?

We now know that those who promised us that “if you like your plan, you can keep it” were dead wrong. The Obama administration has already admitted that at least 7 million seniors will now lose their Medicare Advantage plans. And one of the administration's own top health care analysts recently admitted that this oft-repeated pledge was “not true in all cases.”

We all knew the bill created strong incentives for businesses to drop or change employees' health care plans, the ones they get through their jobs. Now that the bill is passed, the White House admits it too. One recent study suggests that as many as 35 million American workers could see their employer-based health insurance plans dropped in this way. The administration's promises on this point, which were echoed by Capitol Hill Democrats, such as Speaker PELOSI, turned out to be hollow. Today, even the administration itself predicts more than half of all American workers will see their current employer-sponsored health care plans change within a couple of years' time.

Shortly after the health care bill became law, the Department of Labor acknowledged all of that. Small businesses would be most affected, it said, with as many as 80 percent expected to have to change their coverage to comply with the new law. For all remaining businesses, the administration now estimates that somewhere between 39 and 69 percent will be forced to change their plans to comply with costly and burdensome new dictates from health care bureaucrats in Washington.

What happened to the reassuring predictions that everybody's plans would stay the same? It turned out to be nonsense—utter nonsense.

Americans have every reason to be outraged, not only by the bill itself but also by the rhetoric that was used to sell it. Far from being reassured of all the bill's merits, Americans feel betrayed. Check the record. I doubt that one Democrat who voted for this bill told their constituents they would see a change in their plans. Yet here we are a year later and they just expect people to accept it. Democrats knew exactly what Americans wanted to hear, and that is what they told them. Perhaps the biggest deception of all was the claim that people could keep the plans they have.

OK, what else do we know about the bill? At a time when nearly 14 million Americans are looking for work, we know this bill only increases costs and burdens on employers and small businesses, making it even harder for them to keep current workers on board or to hire new ones. According to the independent Congressional Budget Office, the health care bill will result in the

loss of more than 800,000 jobs over the next 10 years. What is more, 200 economists and experts, including two former CBO Directors, have said that the law's “expensive mandates and penalties . . . create major barriers to stronger job growth.”

Another chief selling point of the bill is the promise that it would lower costs. Yet now we hear estimates from one of the administration's top actuaries that it will increase costs by \$311 billion. And the CBO now estimates it will increase Federal health care spending by nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ trillion over the next decade.

What about the cost to individuals and families? Well, according to the same independent analyst at the CBO, once fully implemented, the bill is expected to cause premiums on family policies to increase an average of \$2,100 a year. So \$311 billion more in cost to the government; \$2,100 a year more in cost to the average family.

Meanwhile, other new rules are making it difficult for families to secure child-only plans. The fact that families in 19 States no longer have access to these once-common plans is just one of the harmful, unintended consequences Americans are stuck with now that the “fog of controversy” has lifted.

Taken all together, these broken promises illustrate why so many Americans continue to support a full—a full—repeal, which the new Republican-led House has passed, followed by commonsense reforms that will actually lower costs, improve care, and protect jobs.

The fog of controversy may have lifted, but contrary to the confident predictions of some, the contents of the health care bill are even worse than anyone expected. One year later, it looks even worse than it did then, and that is saying something.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be for 1 hour and that the time be equally divided.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 51 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Republicans controlling the first half, the majority controlling the final half, and