

The Affordable Care Act does all of this while preserving Americans' right to choose their own doctor and the health coverage that they want. Women's health, Americans' health is better because of the Affordable Care Act.

ALLOWING ELECTION YEAR POLITICS TO DICTATE POLICY IS NO WAY TO GOVERN

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, since this administration took office, the price of gasoline has more than doubled. In January of 2009, the national average price for a gallon of gasoline was \$1.79. Today, that same gallon of gasoline will set you back \$3.84. Yet this administration continues to let election-year politics dictate policy.

Since 2010, I have led the charge at fighting President Obama's assault on offshore drilling. The moratorium, a knee-jerk reaction by Washington liberals, harmed many local oil and gas producers on the Gulf Coast. According to a recent study conducted by the Louisiana State University, the moratorium resulted in the loss of 8,000 Gulf State jobs and \$487 million in lost wages. And to make matters worse, the administration continues to push higher taxes on American independent energy producers, leading to higher costs and higher unemployment rates.

The past 3 years were marred with poor decisions relating to domestic energy production, with consequences falling directly on south Louisiana families. Now is the time to promote sensible energy policies that put Americans back to work while fully utilizing the resources we have right here at home.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT'S IMPACT ON WOMEN

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the National Women's Law Center recently reported that 90 percent of the best selling health plans charge women more than men for the same coverage. In addition, insurers have classified millions of women as having pre-existing conditions because of a previous cesarean section or having been pregnant, even for being a victim of domestic violence.

For decades, women have unfairly been charged excessive costs for their health care. Well, that changes now. Because of the Affordable Care Act, the discriminatory practice known as "gender rating," or charging women more than men for care, will be prohibited starting in 2014; and women in private plans can obtain free lifesaving procedures, such as mammograms and colonoscopies.

The Affordable Care Act bans insurance companies from imposing lifetime

limits on care, so Americans will not go bankrupt simply because they are trying to be healthy.

And in 2014, because of health care reform, women cannot be denied access because of a preexisting condition.

There is no better time than today to stand up and demand quality, accessible health care for women.

THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES BRING HIGHER PRICES AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the past month, the price of gas per gallon has increased by 31 cents, with an average cost of \$3.83 per gallon. This weekend the President said that his administration could not do much to provide relief at the pump, but, actually, earlier he promised to increase energy costs, which destroys jobs. The President also claims to support an all-of-the-above energy plan; however, due to his decision to reject the Keystone pipeline, it is clear these claims are not being fulfilled.

The President's solution to help with rising energy costs is to delay smog regulations that will mandate that more sulfur be stripped from gasoline. The delay of this policy will not lower prices but simply keep them from increasing due to more government regulation.

I urge the President to work with House Republicans and begin enacting policies which will help Americans feel relief at the pump.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

DISCRIMINATORY INSURANCE PRACTICES

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the National Women's Law Center issued a report, an online survey of insurance brokers across the country; and what they found is something that every woman who owns a small business or tries to buy a policy on the individual market knows, which is that 90 percent of the best selling insurance plans charge women more than men simply because of the fact that they are women. This is a fact which is not denied by any of the major insurers—Blue Cross, WellPoint, Humana—which were all interviewed in a story in The New York Times a few days ago on this issue. This is not a debating point; this is a fact.

In addition to higher costs, many insurance companies in some jurisdictions around this country deny women coverage entirely because of conditions which are characteristic of women, which is breast or cervical cancer, pregnancy, having a C-section, or even

being a victim of domestic violence. As I said earlier, the Affordable Care Act will abolish all of these barbaric discriminatory practices starting in 2014.

We are going to hear a lot of hooting and hollering this week about repealing ObamaCare, but those people who say that should look women in the eye in this country and tell them what you are going to do to end these discriminatory practices. The fact of the matter is they have no answer.

It is time to stand up for this act.

□ 1210

REPEAL THE IPAB

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, as a physician, you know that buried very deep in the President's 2,000-page health care bill was the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, an unelected, unaccountable 15-member rationing board appointed by the President for the sole purpose of cutting Medicare.

Who will the 15 members of the board be? Well, the law actually forbids them from being active health care providers. It only allows 7 members of the board to even have a health care provider background. In short, a majority of the board will be composed of people who have no experience in actually caring for patients.

Patients across the country, especially those in rural areas like my district, are already struggling to find physicians who will accept new Medicare patients. The IPAB will only make this worse. If Medicare beneficiaries are lucky enough to find a physician who will see them, the IPAB will place a government-rationing bureaucrat between them and their physicians. That government bureaucrat has no place in the physician-patient relationship in America.

We need to repeal the IPAB now.

COMPENSATION FOR BETHLEHEM STEEL EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna, New York, was once the center of western New York's industrial sector, employing thousands of people. Tragically, these workers were unknowingly exposed to residual toxic uranium dust and high levels of radiation, leaving many suffering from cancer and other health problems. Thanks to the efforts of the employees' families, Congress established a program to compensate former Bethlehem Steel employees for their illnesses. However, this process is a difficult one to navigate.

I am proud to have worked with the individual families and help countless of them receive the compensation they are owed. But, Mr. Speaker, there's

still more to be done. There are families who deserve to be compensated for their suffering. And that's why I, along with New York Senators CHUCK SCHUMER and KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, are calling on the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to expand the eligibility period.

Mr. Speaker, western New Yorkers have long been recognized as some of the most dedicated in this country. I will not rest until those who worked so hard for Bethlehem Steel are compensated for the undeserved suffering.

FIXING MEDICARE

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, you've heard on our side of the aisle this morning a number of Members talk about saving Medicare and protecting our precious seniors. What we're wanting to save them from is the most egregious aspect of ObamaCare, and that's called the IPAB law, which is the 15-member bureaucrat agency that's going to actually come between a doctor and his or her patient and interfere with that sacrosanct doctor-patient relationship and make decisions to cut and slash their Medicare opportunity to see their doctors.

This is not the way to fix Medicare, Mr. Speaker. We know how to fix Medicare, and we will talk about that in our budget this year as we did last year, but we must strike down this egregious section of this 2,700-page bill. And we will do that this week.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Let's get to the facts on women's health care under the Affordable Care Act, which is 2 years old this week.

First, good news: The Affordable Care Act outlaws discrimination based on gender in copayments and premiums for the same coverage. Women have generally been charged more for health insurance. A recent report shows that more than 90 percent of the best-selling health plans still charge women more than men for the same coverage. The Affordable Care Act ends that discrimination.

Second: Women can no longer be denied coverage by an HMO or health insurance company because they have a preexisting condition like breast cancer that's in remission, because they had a C-section when they delivered their child, or even because they had injuries from domestic violence.

Third: Women no longer have to jump through the bureaucratic hoop of obtaining permission to see their OB/GYN.

Fourth: Because prevention works and saves money, women in new health

insurance plans will automatically be covered for screenings, mammograms, colonoscopies, and birth control.

Finally, health insurance companies can no longer cancel your policy if you get sick.

These are important consumer protections for women across America, for our mothers, for our daughters, and for our families.

ELIMINATING IPAB

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, because the President cannot stand by his record of failed policies and broken promises, he has resorted to the policies of envy and division—all in the name of "fairness." However, is it "fair" that, to pay for his health care bill, President Obama cut \$500 billion from Medicare, thereby threatening seniors and their access to health care?

As a doctor for over 20 years, I know how important Medicare is to our seniors. That's why I'm proud to join House Republicans this week in introducing a bill to eliminate the new Medicare rationing board created in ObamaCare.

While President Obama thinks 15 unelected Washington bureaucrats should decide the value of medical services, my fellow physicians and I believe that power should remain between the Nation's doctors and their patients. Fifteen unelected bureaucrats. That's one crowded exam room.

Let us pass this bill and get rid of this health care law that we didn't ask for, we can't afford, and we just plain don't want.

EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in speaking up about women's health. As we approach the anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, I want to remind all of us about some of the challenges that women have faced before health reform was signed into law.

Before health reform was signed into law, insurance companies could deny coverage to women due to so-called preexisting conditions like cancer or even simply having been pregnant. Insurance companies could force women to pay more for their coverage simply because of their gender. And now, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, women will be able to see their OB/GYN without a referral. You've heard that repeatedly today because that's critical and important to women. Women will have access to critical preventive services like birth control with no out-of-pocket costs. And that ultimately saves health care expenses.

Already, hundreds of men and women from all across San Diego have shared with me how important affordable access to contraception is for them and for their families. They can't afford to have it stripped away by this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to build on these reforms to ensure that all women have equal access to health care.

□ 1220

COMMENDING OBAMA'S HEALTHCARE REFORM PRESIDENT LANDMARK

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

Mr. FALLOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, in the 2 years since President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, millions of Americans have already experienced firsthand its important benefits and the economic security it provides. Because of President Obama's bold reforms, Medicare is now stronger for seniors, and women can now get lifesaving mammograms at no extra cost. Children won't lose their coverage just because they were born with preconditions like asthma.

Altogether, families across the Nation are seeing how health reform is saving lives and saving money. For example, 86 million Americans have received free preventive health care, and 180 million are now protected from some of the worst health insurance abuses. An additional 2.5 million young adults now have health insurance, and 47 million Americans now benefit from a stronger Medicare program. Now prescription drug discounts have saved 3.6 million Medicare recipients an average of \$600.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's landmark health care reforms are already helping millions of Americans save lives and live healthier lives. I commend President Obama for making the tough decisions that have given more Americans access to an affordable quality health care program.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we lead busy lives here, and I don't want to blame my colleagues for being forgetful, nor do I want to accuse anyone of just not caring. But I do have to remind the House that before the health care law, insurance companies were free to discriminate against women, and they did so with reckless abandon. Women were charged 50 percent more than men for the same insurance coverage, and pregnancy could be considered a preexisting condition.

Reform ends this discrimination, but, unfortunately, many in Congress and people on the campaign trail have forgotten the past, and they seem to be