

WOMEN'S HEALTH WEDNESDAY: AFFORDABLE CARE ACT'S BENEFITS FOR WOMEN

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, for decades, women in this country have unfairly borne the burden of excessive health care costs. Fortunately, through the Affordable Care Act, millions of women no longer have to worry about going bankrupt if they get sick.

The Affordable Care Act ensures that being a woman will no longer be treated as a preexisting condition. The Affordable Care Act bans insurance companies from requiring women to obtain a referral for access to necessary OB/GYN care and bans insurance companies from dropping women when they get sick or pregnant.

Despite these accomplishments in women's health, the war on women continues in Texas. Governor Perry's political decision to forgo nearly \$40 million in Federal funding for the Texas Medicaid Women's Health Program will leave 130,000 women without access to preventative health services.

Despite these obstacles, I will continue to fight for the increased access to quality health care for women in Texas.

□ 1210

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

(Mr. BASS of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, today the Congress will take up H.R. 5, Protecting Access to Healthcare Act. Amongst other things, this bill will repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, one of the many ill-conceived provisions that was part of the so-called Affordable Care Act. This independent advisory board basically has charged 15 unelected individuals with making decisions about what's covered for both patients below the age of 65 and Medicare recipients. It is the Affordable Care Act's way of reducing costs, i.e., telling doctors and patients what they can do and what they can't do. Fifteen unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., are going to tell you what you can do. They stand ahead of you and your doctor.

Now, this bill did not make it to the floor last year. It will make it to the floor this year with bipartisan support. It costs \$3.1 billion, which is made up with a tort law reform provision which has been added. But that shows that \$3.1 billion is what's saved by denying Americans access to health care that they've purchased or that they deserve. Join me in repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding time. I'm proud to stand with her and with other Democratic Members in support of women's access to comprehensive, affordable health care, access that was greatly expanded by the Affordable Care Act which passed 2 years ago this week and which my Republican colleagues want to repeal.

Thanks to health care reform, over 13 million previously uninsured women will gain access to health insurance. Thanks to health reform, insurance companies will no longer be allowed to discriminate against women by charging them higher premiums than men for the same exact policy or by denying them coverage altogether simply because they are women. Thanks to health care reform, millions of women with private insurance will no longer have to pay for preventive services like mammograms, cervical cancer screening, contraception, and a host of other services.

As a dad of three daughters, as a grandfather of two granddaughters, and as a great grandfather of one great granddaughter, I am glad we did that. And thanks to the Affordable Care Act, preventive services are already free for Medicare beneficiaries.

If I had the time, I'd say the other benefits of this bill that we ought to keep, and I will not join my friend from New Hampshire in trying to repeal a provision of this act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MONICA PEARSON

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I rise today to give a tribute to a friend, a television broadcast icon, the talented and eloquent Monica Kaufman Pearson.

In 1975, Monica became the first African American, in fact, the first female, to anchor a daily evening newscast in Atlantic. Years later, it was revealed that she beat out Jane Pauley and Oprah Winfrey for the coveted position. And just like these high-profile women, Monica has risen to achieve extraordinary success.

For her diligent reporting and superb storytelling, she has won 30 Emmy Awards and numerous honors. However, Monica does not simply report the evening news. I can confidently say that she is one of Georgia's finest. Throughout the years, she has lent her voice to efforts and charitable causes within her community, living out her motto: It's what you do with what you have that makes you what you are.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to honor Amer-

ica's and Atlanta's top news leader, Monica Kaufman Pearson, for her outstanding career and significant contributions to broadcast journalism.

We love you, Monica, and we'll miss you. God bless you.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the provisions in the Affordable Care Act that close the gender gap in health care. Beginning in 2014, health insurers cannot charge women more just because of their gender. Health insurers cannot deny coverage because of preexisting conditions like having survived cancer or having been pregnant or having been a victim of domestic violence, a condition that is almost as disproportionately experienced by women as pregnancy. And health care will have to cover preventive services like mammograms, screening for cervical cancer and, yes, contraception.

Republicans in Congress are trying to block these and other reforms so that health insurers or employers or Members of Congress can make women's health and reproduction decisions rather than trust those decisions to women. Madam Speaker, women can make those decisions. They really don't need help from insurers or employers or politicians or radio talk-show hosts. Women want to make those important personal decisions for themselves, and they should.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 5, the PATH Act, which will fix two of the worst problems with ObamaCare. It repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a group of 15 bureaucrats who will ration health care for seniors on Medicare.

H.R. 5 enacts medical liability reform. Each year, one-fourth of America's doctors are hit with lawsuits, and 90 percent of them are later found innocent. These frivolous lawsuits drive up costs and limit patients' time with their doctors. In 2003, my home State of Texas enacted liability reforms, bringing more than 14,000 new physicians to the Lone Star State. Many of these doctors moved to rural areas, filling a critical gap in care.

Madam Speaker, these reforms have lowered costs and increased access to care in Texas and will do the same for America. I urge my colleagues to listen to the American people and support H.R. 5.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, among the many beneficial reforms for women in the Affordable Care Act passed 2 years ago this week is an end to the discriminatory practice of gender rating in which individual women are charged more than men for the same coverage. We know for a fact that these sorts of discriminatory policies are not something that insurers would just change on their own.

According to a report that the National Women's Law Center released earlier this week, over 90 percent of the best-selling plans in States that have not already banned gender rating still charge women more than men for the very same coverage. This costs women and their families approximately \$1 billion a year. Because we fought—and we fought hard 2 years ago—gender rating will be a thing of the past in 2014. At long last, a woman's health will be put on equal footing with that of her spouse, her son, or her brother.

This is just one of the many benefits for women in the Affordable Care Act. I could not be more proud to have helped pass this piece of legislation, which will transform women's health in this country.

CONGRATULATING MONICA KAUFMAN PEARSON

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I would like to join with my other Georgia colleagues today in congratulating Monica Kaufman Pearson on a distinguished career.

Ms. Pearson, known to most of us that have been watching her for a long time as Monica Kaufman, is retiring after more than 30 years as a "Nightbeat" anchor for WSB-TV and Channel 2 News in Atlanta.

I, along with many Georgians, have welcomed Ms. Pearson into my home every night while watching the news. Although her retirement is well deserved, she will be missed by us all.

After graduating from the University of Louisville, Ms. Pearson began her career as a reporter for the Louisville Times. Later she took part in the Summer Program for Minority Groups at the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University of New York. Before coming to Atlanta, Ms. Pearson worked in the public relations field and as an anchor for WHAS-TV in Louisville.

Even with her retirement, I know she will continue to be a role model for the citizens of Georgia and continue using her helping hands to raise money for charity and local community organizations.

I wish Ms. Pearson the best in her future endeavors.

And, Monica, the nightly news will not be the same without you. Thank you very much.

□ 1220

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND WOMEN

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, I was really honored to serve as the chair of the House Committee on Rules and bring this historic Affordable Care Act to the House floor. It was one of my proudest moments. I'm standing here today, equally proud to defend that law from the ongoing war on women.

When it comes to health care, women are classified as a preexisting condition. For decades, women have been routinely charged more for health insurance than a man who seeks the very same coverage.

Did you know that if a business employs more women than men, it can choose to raise everybody's premiums, regardless of gender, to cover the higher cost, which is, in their mind, of insuring women?

Women not only pay for standard insurance coverage, but they also pay a separate cost for maternity coverage. In Illinois, a 30-year-old woman must pay \$278 a month and an additional \$270 a month for maternity coverage in case she needs it.

Insurance companies claim that these added costs are because women are more likely to visit doctors, get checkups, take prescription drugs, and have illnesses. Everyone knows that preventative care—everyone but the insurance companies, apparently—saves us money in the long run. We women in the majority of the United States are tired of being second-class citizens.

IPAB

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I'm a doctor. And as a doctor who still treats patients, I understand how important it is to have health care for the millions of Americans who depend upon it, particularly Medicare. Therefore, I fully support the repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a new government bureaucracy of 15 unelected, unaccountable officials created by the President's health care law.

Now, as it turns out, the IPAB can only save money by slashing payments to physicians, to Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug plans—things that our seniors depend upon daily. I cannot imagine why my Demo-

crat colleagues support making it more difficult for a senior to obtain the care that she needs and deserves.

The faith that centralized planning of the IPAB will be successful in controlling costs brings to mind Samuel Johnson's quote regarding second marriages: "It is the triumph of hope over experience."

REMEMBERING THE REVEREND MAURICE MOYER

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

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the Reverend Maurice Moyer, who died Tuesday, March 6, at age 93.

Rev. Moyer was one of Delaware's most respected and beloved citizens, and a prominent civil rights leader.

As president of the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP from 1960 to 1964, Rev. Moyer led the fight for open public accommodations and fair housing. He was part of the 1963 March on Washington, and participated in the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

Rev. Moyer fought tirelessly for equal rights for all and was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. He did so much to make Delaware and our country a better place for all of us.

It was a privilege for me to know him personally and to join his family and friends for his 90th birthday party, where we celebrated his incredible life and legacy.

I will always remember Rev. Moyer's broad smile, his strong voice, and his kind heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

IPAB

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with the Independent Payment Advisory Board. This unelected bureaucracy is another example of the extreme flaws in the massive health care overhaul. The power that would be wielded by the IPAB is unprecedented. More troubling, it diminishes the oversight ability of Congress—a fundamental element of our Nation's system of checks and balances.

Many doctors and care providers in my home State of Florida are already unable to accommodate the new Medicare beneficiaries. The IPAB will create further uncertainty and could certainly harm seniors' ability to access care.

Madam Speaker, this health care bill is not working. We hear about major problems from every facet of the health care system, both patients and providers. Repealing the IPAB is an important step in rolling back this deeply flawed and unpopular health care bill.