

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.

RYAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I feel as if it's *deja vu* all over again. Just 1 year ago, Washington Republicans proposed a plan to kill Medicare by turning it over to private insurance companies. It passed the House and luckily failed in the Senate.

Now, just 1 year later, Republicans are pushing yet another plan to kill Medicare and devastate Nevada seniors by forcing them to pay thousands more out of their own pockets for health care. Madam Speaker, it was a bad idea for Nevada seniors when it was first proposed, it's a bad idea for Nevada seniors now.

Unfortunately, these are the kinds of priorities we have come to expect from Washington Republicans. Instead of strengthening Medicare, Washington Republicans have spent this year trying to undermine it in order to pay for massive taxpayer giveaways to big oil companies making billions in profits and tax breaks for corporations who are shipping our jobs overseas. It's a matter of getting our priorities straight, and the Republicans in Washington just don't get it.

We need to put Nevada's seniors first, not Big Oil executives, not Wall Street billionaires. We must focus on creating jobs, not on killing Medicare by turning it over to greedy insurance companies.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the bill that we're bringing to the floor today to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, this group of 15 unelected bureaucrats here in Washington, D.C., that, under the President's health care law, would be able to ration care for our Nation's seniors.

I think most hardworking American families out there would much rather the decisions on health care to be made between a patient and a doctor, not some unelected bureaucrats to be allowed to ration our grandmother's care. So that's why we're repealing this law. Hopefully, it's going to be sent over to the Senate, and we'll finally be able to get some good bipartisan support over there.

As part of this reform, we are also not just repealing, we're replacing with real commonsense medical liability reform. This is something that should have been in the President's law, but of course his law wasn't about reform; it was about a government takeover. We are actually putting in place legislation that would put commonsense medical liability reform in place.

According to the Harvard School of Public Health, 40 percent of medical

malpractice suits filed in the United States are "without merit." Well, what does that do? That dramatically increases the cost of health care because so many doctors out there will tell you that many of the tests they run on us are not because of our health, to look at health outcomes; it's to avoid frivolous lawsuits. We finally addressed that, lowering the costs and improving quality of care.

WAR ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, over the past several months, we have seen Republicans wage war on women's health. Nowhere can the Republican zeal for limiting women's access to affordable quality health care be seen more clearly than in their attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act.

Improving health care has long been a priority for women, reflecting their experiences as patients, mothers, and caregivers. For decades insurance companies have been able to deny coverage and charge higher rates for women simply because of their gender. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act—the greatest advancement for women's health in a generation—this will no longer be legal. This law moves us closer to the day when essential women's health services are covered, prevention is a priority, and care is coordinated.

On the eve of the 2-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, I join my colleagues in protecting health care reform for women, and I rebuke all attempts to continue discriminatory health insurance policies that result in women paying more than men.

□ 1230

THE HEALTH ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare Act of 2012, which also contains H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2012. I'm a co-sponsor of both of these very important pieces of legislation.

The Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB, must be repealed, as this board will have extremely negative consequences on American families' health care. This board of unelected members will be making decisions for tens of thousands of Medicare patients. The power to control the purse strings will give enormous power to control what type of care a patient receives. I strongly believe that physicians and patients are in the best position to decide their own health care, and IPAB must be repealed.

In addition, the HEALTH Act is absolutely needed. I've been working on medical malpractice issues since my time in the Ohio General Assembly when we passed successful tort reform. The current system is broken and places a \$210 billion burden on our Nation's health system each year. H.R. 5 will bring savings for patients and doctors, and is an important step in helping to make sure our Medicare liability system works in this country.

I support both bills.

BENEFITS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the ways that young people in my congressional district and around the country are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act.

Before health reform, young adults were the age group most likely to be uninsured, losing their coverage right after they left home and entered the workforce; but thanks to the health reform law, 2½ million young people, including nearly 10,000 in my communities, now have health insurance. And some of them have reached out to tell us how the law is working for them and for their families.

Jamie from Santa Barbara wrote:

I got back on my parents' insurance and was finally able to visit the dentist and get a new prescription for eyeglasses that I desperately needed.

Maria from Oxnard says:

As a recent graduate, I felt completely vulnerable. With health care reform, I am now able to stay with my parents' health insurance, which has given me peace of mind while I search for employment.

Madam Speaker, health reform is working for young people on California's central coast. We must ensure the law stays strong to keep them and their families healthy, and I'll say the same for this entire Nation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAN HOLDINGS CORPORATION

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

Mr. SABLON. Madam Speaker, 40 years ago, Dr. Tan Siu Lin founded what is known as Tan Holdings, the largest private employer in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Over four decades, Dr. Tan, together with his wife and their children, nurtured their small, homegrown business into an international powerhouse. Tan Holdings has become one of the region's most important tourism businesses, with hotels, booking agencies, and, soon, an airline, Saipan Air. The company also provides personal and corporate insurance, distributes some