

RYAN of Wisconsin. My home State of Rhode Island has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. My constituents need commonsense solutions that will create jobs and get our country back on the right track, not another extreme proposal from the House Republican leadership.

Unfortunately, this budget proposal would give the wealthiest Americans an average tax cut of \$150,000 while slashing important support for middle class families and investments that we need to grow our economy. And once again, House Republicans are proposing to end the Medicare guarantee for our seniors; in this case, by replacing it with a voucher program that would not be guaranteed to keep pace with rising health care costs, which could result in higher costs for our seniors and less quality of care.

I urge my colleagues to reject this proposal.

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

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

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out about an important issue that faces our society: domestic violence and sexual abuse. Our country has a moral obligation to stand up against those who exploit power to commit violence against men, women, and children.

In an effort to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual abuse, my district kicked off the White Ribbon Campaign last week. The White Ribbon Campaign is led by men and encourages all members of the community—men and women, young and old—to join in their efforts. This male leadership helps to acknowledge the important contributions men have made towards this effort and invites others to take a role.

From March 23 to April 1, thousands of my constituents in central New York will be wearing a white ribbon or a white wristband to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual violence. I encourage my House colleagues to join me in wearing a white ribbon to put a spotlight on this very important issue. Wearing the white ribbon demonstrates a personal pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against men, women, or children.

FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the health of women and their families is threatened. It's threatened not only by a Supreme Court case across the street but by the Republican budget right here in the House.

The Affordable Care Act law protects women from being charged more for health insurance for simply being a

woman, and it allows women to get health coverage and not be denied because giving birth may be considered a preexisting condition. And it helps families—mothers and fathers—have a little bit of peace of mind in raising their children.

Last Friday in my district, I met with Kathy Estrada and her son Nick. Kathy and her husband have worked hard and are doing the best they can to raise their son. But as a young man in his twenties, Nick is building a life, and it's incredibly expensive to buy health care insurance. He is a skateboarder, and she used to lay awake at night worrying that something might happen to him out on the streets and she wouldn't be able to take care of him because he couldn't be on her insurance. But because of the affordable care law, Kathy can rest easier because Nick can be covered on her insurance policy. The affordable care law is today helping women and families of all ages across the country, and that's the way it should continue.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, imagine you come to a fork in the road. You look on your GPS, and you see that the path to the left leads to an old bridge that is falling into the river. The path on the right leads to a brand-new bridge that is guaranteed to get your car over the river. Obviously, everyone would go over the new bridge.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Medicare, we have a GPS provided to us by the Medicare trustees. They clearly say that if we stay on the same road, Medicare will be broke by 2024. Republicans want to provide a new bridge that protects and preserves the program for current and future retirees, a program that gives future seniors the option to stay in traditional Medicare or to choose a new plan that best fits their needs.

Unlike current Medicare, the Republican plan provides greater benefits for low-income and sick seniors and requires more from wealthy seniors. The Medicare trustees have put up a bright orange sign saying: "Bridge Out Ahead." We can either heed their warnings and turn down a new path or plow right through and end up in the river.

MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues here in the House to take action and create jobs by bringing Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21, to the House floor for a vote.

Yesterday, for the second time this week, the Republican leadership pulled

a short-term highway extension bill. Time is running out, and the ninth extension will be expiring this Saturday, March 31. If Congress does not act by Saturday, millions of construction jobs will be at risk. Gas taxes will not be collected, which can add up to over \$90 million a day.

Two weeks ago, MAP-21 successfully passed the Senate with a bipartisan vote of 74-22. While it is not a perfect bill, MAP-21 is fully paid for and is estimated to save 1.8 million jobs and create up to 1 million more jobs. While I would prefer a 5-year transportation bill, MAP-21 is legislation that both Republicans and Democrats can support. A transportation bill will not only improve our infrastructure but will provide jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to bring to the floor MAP-21 for a vote.

WE HAVE ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the opportunity over at the Supreme Court to witness the oral arguments on the individual mandate. I believe I could tell from the faces of the Justices that there was significant skepticism about this provision of the Affordable Care Act. You know, if we were smart, that skepticism could open the way for thoughtful alternatives by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to preserve and protect Medicare. Speaker PELOSI last year cut \$500 billion from Medicare, and the President has placed his bet on a bureaucratic control board, the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

A trustees' report from a year ago suggested that the Medicare trust fund will be exhausted in less than a decade. That doesn't seem like a viable way forward. We've got a budget resolution up this week to preserve and protect Medicare. The Republican action ensures access to care in the future. This House has voted to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, and maybe the Senate should take up the same action.

We have to reduce the spending that diverts thought and effort from patient care and free up resources to focus on these patients. We are committed to protecting our seniors and Medicare, lowering the deficit, and creating a workable system that allows for good doctors to help more patients.

REMEMBERING ANTHONY DEJUAN BOATWRIGHT

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, it's with sadness that I rise to honor the life of Anthony Dejuan Boatwright, who

passed away at the age of 11 Sunday night. Juan was 14 months old when he was left alone at his day care center, fell into a bucket of water and bleach, and suffered irreversible brain damage. At that time, there was no law requiring Georgia licensed day care centers to carry insurance or even let parents know that they didn't carry insurance. That meant that despite being awarded a \$30 million jury verdict, Juan's family couldn't collect the money needed to care for Juan's life over the past 11 years.

Juan's mother, Jackie, has led a courageous effort to correct this injustice. And in 2004, Georgia enacted a law requiring that day care centers disclose their insurance status. Last Congress, Juan and Jackie's fight led the House to pass the Anthony Dejuan Boatwright Act so that families across America would never again experience the same tragedy.

During the last 11 years, Juan inspired a movement to protect the safety of children everywhere. Juan, your mother and I thank you for your life. You will be missed, but your legacy lives on.

AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY TO POWER THIS NATION

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, it looks like the President's road to "Regulation Nation" is truly never ending. Just yesterday, the EPA announced their latest set of regulations which will effectively ban the building of any new coal-fired power plants. This regulation comes on the heels of some of the most costly regulations in the history of the EPA, including the Utility MACT and Boiler MACT rules. He promised that his energy policies would mean "electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket," one promise the President has kept.

Coal is one of our most plentiful resources. Over 50 percent of our energy is provided by coal. We can no longer allow the White House to regulate this country into an energy crisis. It's time we start to take advantage of all the God-given natural resources this country has and have American-made energy power this Nation.

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OPPOSE THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I'm troubled by the Republican budget's effect on health care, specifically the provisions that would eliminate the Affordable Care Act. Passing the Republican budget would be detrimental to the health of citizens across the United States, but it's particularly harmful to women.

As we mark the anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, we can measure its successes by the benefits that women have already realized: preventive care is guaranteed, gender rating will soon be gone, and access to contraceptives has expanded. This expansion is important for all women, not just those women who use contraceptives for birth control.

My colleagues will share stories of women who have been put at risk by this budget. I would like to share the story of Julie, an Oregonian whose contraceptives are important to her health on a daily basis to treat endometriosis. Without contraceptives, Julie would suffer from extreme pain and the risk of infertility. Under the Republican budget, her access to this medication could be in jeopardy.

It is unconscionable to deny women access to treatments that can improve the quality of their lives, and I urge my colleagues to stand up for women and oppose the Republican budget.

THE EPA IS OVERSTEPPING ITS BOUNDS

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPITO. I rise today to bring attention once again to this administration's assault on our domestic energy production.

For the past 3 years, I've been saying many times from this very podium that the EPA is overstepping its bounds and regulating where it cannot legislate and costing us American jobs.

Last Friday evening, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia overruled the EPA's veto of the Spruce Mine's Clean Water Act permit. The decision stated—and this is a quote from the judge—that the EPA's veto was "unprecedented" and it had acted in a manner that was "arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with the law." Could there be a clearer sign that we've been subjected to an overreach of Executive power?

This decision is a win for West Virginia, but we have a long way to go because the administration's so-called energy policies have led to higher gas prices and higher heating prices.

We're blessed to have abundant natural resources in this country, particularly in my State of West Virginia, but this becomes irrelevant if this administration continues to hold these domestic resources hostage. All-of-the-above means following the law.

MEDICARE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many people are smiling about the argument in the Supreme Court on the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, but I will tell you those children born with sickle cell and asth-

ma are praying that ObamaCare survives. Those elderly persons who fall into the doughnut hole with Medicare part D are praying for ObamaCare to survive. I am as well, Mr. Speaker, because I believe in a humanitarian approach in service to our Nation: Help those who cannot help themselves.

As we look forward to a vigorous debate on this Republican budget, I hope that we stand together against ending Medicare, destroying jobs, and moving forward on the lopsided help that we give to the wealthy over the poor.

VICTIMIZING THE VICTIM

I also want to say that Trayvon Martin's parents were here yesterday, and I want to stand against victimizing the victim. We say to them in a forceful way that it is important for justice to be done, that justice is to assure the arrest of Mr. Zimmerman, who will not be alleged guilty but will be innocent until proven guilty.

Now is the time to heal this Nation and to recognize that this case must move forward with justice for a little boy.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, Senator LIEBERMAN, an Independent from Connecticut, said: "The truth is we cannot save Medicare as we know it. We can save Medicare only if we change it."

I agree with Senator LIEBERMAN.

My mother is on Medicare, and I want to ensure care for our senior citizens by maintaining this program for those currently on Medicare and preserving it for future generations.

Our budget, which we will vote on tomorrow, saves Medicare for current and future generations with no disruptions for those in and near retirement.

Our reforms are not partisan. In fact, they are based on a bipartisan proposal by Chairman RYAN and Senator RON WYDEN, a Democrat of Oregon.

I urge my colleagues to support the GOP budget tomorrow because failure to take action to save this program today poses the greatest threat to the health and retirement security of America's seniors.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, for too long, women have faced discrimination at the hands of insurance companies who label pregnancy as a pre-existing condition and then deny coverage or charge more for it.

Erin from Chicago writes:

When I found out I was pregnant, I had full insurance coverage. I was told, however, that I did not have a pregnancy rider and therefore my pregnancy would not be covered.