

The other thing my bill does, and this will help with those poor people who can't even buy the much-reduced-cost health insurance, even bare-bone policies, and, unfortunately, there are some people in this country that are in that category. In my over four decades of practicing medicine, I have literally given away hundreds of thousands of dollars of my services. That's what most doctors do, particularly in my generation. A lot of the younger doctors aren't doing that as much because of the government diktats to them and because of the requirements that CMS puts upon their practices that they don't have time to give to their patients. They don't have time to try to develop relationships with their patients. They don't have time to give good quality care anymore because of the Federal Government.

If I was accepting Medicare as a physician and I was a preferred provider—that's the providers that are accepting Medicare as a payment. And Medicare, by the way, sets the prices but says you cannot publish those prices. There's no transparency because of Federal diktats, by the way, Federal law.

If I was a preferred provider and a patient came in to see me that was really struggling and trying to make ends meet, they didn't have health insurance, they're trying to pay their bills, and they came in to see me, and I said, Don't worry about the bill—and I have done that to thousands of patients over my four decades of practicing medicine. I said, Don't worry about it. Forget it. I'm glad to give you these services for free. If I did that and I was a preferred provider, Medicare could literally throw me in jail for treating somebody for free. They could throw me in jail and they could fine me.

Doctors today cannot give away their services to somebody who needs, desperately, to get their services. So what my bill does is it stops that, and it gives a physician a tax credit between \$2,000 and \$8,000 a year for giving away their services. It gives them a tax credit.

I talked to a lot of doctors throughout Georgia and asked them, if we did this, how many doctors would actually see patients for free. Every single one in every single doctors' meeting has held up their hands. And I'll give you an example.

I talked to a urologist who basically practices in a very upscale, wealthy community. He's in his office 4 days a week. It's a retirement community with high-price real estate and homes. And he told me, if I would do this in a bill, he would set aside 2 of the 4 days he's in his office to see nothing but indigent patients. Let me repeat that. This doctor who is working in this area will give half of his time to see indigent patients in his office if we would just give him this tax credit.

And that's what we did in this bill so that doctors are no longer under the threat of being fined and being jailed

for just having compassion on poor people, as the Federal Government has stopped that, prevented that and said it's against the law to have compassion on poor people. You have to charge them. You have to try to collect, and you cannot give away your services. This stops all that.

Medicare has no compassion. Medicaid has no compassion. It's all about money and government control.

Another thing that my bill does is it reforms EMTALA, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act. This is another law that Congress passed that requires every emergency room in this country to see whoever comes in and to treat them. In my area in Georgia, throughout my Tenth Congressional District in Georgia, a person can walk into any emergency room in my district and they will find the emergency room filled with patients who do not need to be in the emergency room, should not be in the emergency room.

I worked for 2 years before I moved to northeast Georgia. I was working at a hospital down in southwest Georgia as the director of emergency services. For 2 years, I worked full-time as an ER doc and directing those emergency services. Way over 90 percent of the patients that came in that emergency room, as they do in most emergency rooms, had no emergency. And, actually, emergency rooms all across this country are filled with illegal aliens that are going there and getting services, utilizing the emergency room in the hospital as their primary care provider; in other words, they're going to see doctors in the emergency room for stumped toes or colds, sore throats, headaches, any medical problem. And they don't have to pay because of EMTALA.

The Federal Government has required the emergency rooms to see and treat everybody who walks in. Whether they can pay or not, whether they are here legally or not, whether they are a citizen or they are an illegal alien, it requires them to do so.

What's happening with EMTALA is there is a tremendous economic burden upon hospitals. We have hospitals, particularly rural hospitals, going broke today so that nobody in their community gets services because of EMTALA.

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It's not fair. It's not fair to the people in that community. It's not fair to people who really need to be in the emergency room. It's not fair particularly that we are forcing emergency rooms and hospitals to see illegal aliens. Actually, it's hurting people who have true emergencies because emergency rooms are filled with people who don't need to be there. People can come in with severe injuries or severe medical problems. If it's not blatantly apparent, then people have delayed administering of treatment that they desperately need to keep them well or to save their lives.

What my bill does is it allows hospitals to set up a basic screening process so that the hospital can set up somebody with basic medical knowledge and can screen patients and say to the patient, this is not an emergency, go see your doctor, go to a free clinic, we can't see you. So it reforms EMTALA and makes it so that hospitals don't have this economic burden that's been placed on them because of Federal law and Federal dictate.

I presented this bill to a lot of groups. In fact, I'm very pleased, I did an interview with Forbes magazine recently. They wrote up a blog and this article about my health care bill, the Patient OPTION Act, H.R. 4224.

They said this: Now a new plan has come forth, backed by one of the most influential Tea Party groups—that I'll mention in just a second—that contains some intriguing and original ideas for bringing cheaper health care to more people. This is from Forbes magazine.

BROUN's plan would revolutionize the insurance market by incentivizing companies, particularly smaller ones and startups, to pay their workers directly their wages—so that the wage earner will control their own money. They're earning it, they should get it, and they should make their own health care insurance decisions themselves—and let those workers decide how to pay for their own care.

Forbes magazine. It's not a Tea Party magazine; it's a magazine that I think most Americans know.

The Tea Party group—which a lot of people don't understand Tea Parties and what it's all about, but Freedom Works is a grassroots group, and it's been dubbed a Tea Party group. Actually, Freedom Works has been around for some time. But Freedom Works has endorsed my Patient OPTION Act, and this is what they said:

Congressman BROUN has authored a bold, timely, and principled plan that offers exactly what a majority of Americans want, a patient-centered health care so that patients can make their own decisions, along with their doctors. It makes health care cheaper for everybody. It provides coverage for all Americans. And it will save Medicare from going broke.

Americans need to contact their Senators and Congressmen and the leadership of the House and Senate and demand that we pass the Patient OPTION Act, H.R. 4224.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not refer to occupants of the gallery.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian E. Pate, one of his secretaries.

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-98)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committees on Armed Services, Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, Transportation and Infrastructure, Veterans' Affairs, Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2012 *National Drug Control Strategy*, which follows through on the commitment made by my Administration to chart a new course in our efforts to reduce illicit drug use and its consequences in the United States. The balanced approach outlined in the Administration's inaugural *National Drug Control Strategy* has yielded significant results, which are detailed in the following pages.

Our Nation still faces serious drug-related challenges, however. Too many Americans need treatment for substance use disorders but do not receive it. Prescription drug abuse continues to claim American lives, and those who take drugs and drive threaten safety on our Nation's roadways. Young people's perceptions of the risks of drug use have declined over the past decade, and research suggests that this often predicts future increases in drug use. There is still much left to do to reform our justice system and break the cycle of drug use and crime. Our commitment to work with partner nations must remain steadfast to reduce drug production, trafficking, and related transnational threats.

Based upon the progress we have achieved over the past three years, I am confident we can address these challenges through concerted action along the entire spectrum of prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice reform, law enforcement, and international cooperation. However, we must match our commitment with the appropriate resources.

Illicit drug use in America contributed to an estimated \$193 billion in crime, health, and lost productivity costs in 2007, the year for which the most recent estimate is available. In today's challenging economic environment, we cannot afford such a drain on our economy and public resources. While difficult budget decisions must be made at all levels of government, we must ensure continued support for policies and programs that reduce drug use and its enormous costs to American society. In doing so, we will not only strengthen our economy but also sustain the national character and spirit that has made the United States a world leader.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Congress and Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders, international partners, and the American people in this important endeavor.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 19, 2012.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending a funeral service.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 23, 2012, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5689. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Customer Clearing Documentation, Timing of Acceptance for Clearing, and Clearing Member Risk Management (RIN: 3038-0092, -0094) received April 10, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5690. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors: Compliance Obligations (RIN: 3038-AD30) received March 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5691. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; NM; Correction [Docket No.: APHIS-2008-0124] received March 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5692. A letter from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Onion Crop Insurance Provisions [Docket No.: FCIC-11-0004] (RIN: 0563-AC29) received March 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5693. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for Fiscal Year 2013, along with proposed plans for FY 2014 through 2017, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-2(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5694. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on activities under the Secretary's personnel management demonstration project authorities for the Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories for Calendar Year 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5695. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting

a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Frank G. Helmick, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5696. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revising Standards Referenced in the Acetylene Standard [Docket No.: OSHA-2011-0183] (RIN: 1218-AC64) received March 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5697. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration's "Major" final rule — Hazard Communication [Docket No.: OSHA-H022K-2006-0062] (formerly Docket No.: H022K) (RIN: 1218-AC20) received April 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5698. A letter from the Correspondence and Regulations Assistant, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Student Health Insurance Coverage [CMS-9981-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ95) received March 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5699. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Terrestrial Environmental Studies For Nuclear Power Stations, Regulatory Guide 4.11, Revision 2, received March 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5700. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Leakage Tests on Packages for Shipment of Radioactive Material, Regulatory Guide 7.4, Revision 1, received March 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5701. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of intent to use FY 10 Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR) funds for Global Threat Reduction (GTR) activities in Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5702. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Somalia originally declared on April 12, 2010, by Executive Order 13536, is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2012, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 112-97); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5703. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-343, "Tenant Security Deposit Clarification Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5704. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-344, "South Capitol Street Memorial Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5705. A letter from the President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002 Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5706. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting a copy of the Peace Corps' Fiscal Year 2011 Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report; to