

fight overseas, fighting Taliban and al Qaeda funded with OPEC oil profits.

Finally, we have the increased cost of health insurance. The Kaiser Family Foundation has estimated the cost to the average family to be about \$1,200 more since we passed the health care bill here, and median income for families is down \$4,300.

There are solutions that the House, Senate, and White House can work on together. But much of this is in the area of using our domestic energy and to stop saying “no” to domestic energy. Although an all-of-the-above policy that includes wind and solar is valuable, we cannot create jobs by also saying “no” to coal, 10 Federal agencies trying to block natural gas drilling, and everyone dropping the ability to drill for oil. We have solutions, we have answers. We only have to have the will to pass these.

WOMEN OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARE NOT PAWNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, American women have been outraged by Republican attacks on reproductive health this term. We saw it in the decision that was later reversed by the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure when it initially pulled funding for Planned Parenthood for breast cancer screenings, and we saw it again in Republican attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, and then again to block access to contraceptives as part of health insurance.

More seriously, beneath the radar, there has been a far-right campaign, as announced by anti-choice forces, that will emerge in the markup of H.R. 3803, a frontal attack on abortion rights as guaranteed by Roe v. Wade. Representative TRENT FRANKS, the sponsor of H.R. 3803, and anti-choice forces have unleashed a full-fledged attack on Roe and the Nation's women, using women in the Nation's Capital as pawns.

The District of Columbia Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, a bill without any scientific basis, seeks to ban all abortions in the District of Columbia after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with very limited exceptions. However, Roe v. Wade requires viability to be determined only by a physician and not by statute. Although the bill is nominally addressed only to women in the District of Columbia, it seeks to rally the most extreme Republicans by achieving a Federal imprimatur, however bogus or limited, for use in an ongoing campaign across the Nation to get States to defy the law of the land under Roe v. Wade. Several conservative States have already passed similar laws, but neither Congressional Republicans nor anti-choice organizations has the nerve to proceed in the usual way with a post-20-week abortion ban bill for the Nation because they know that women and their supporters would

angrily turn back such an attack on Roe v. Wade.

The full and equal American citizens who live in the Nation's Capital, pay Federal taxes, and go to war demand to have their laws respected—especially by unaccountable Members of Congress. By moving the post-20-week abortion ban only in conservative States and targeting the District, which has no vote on such a bill on this floor, even though it affects only our residents, Republicans show they lack the courage of their own convictions and the courage to make this bill apply nationally, even in a Republican-controlled House where they would surely win. They target the District of Columbia women because they fear the wrath of the Nation's women that a nationwide bill would surely bring.

□ 1050

Well, we will not stand by as Republicans, who claim to favor small and local government, attempt to pass legislation affecting my constituents but not theirs in an act of disdain for the Federalist principles they profess.

Fortunately, the scheduled markup of the bill has helped us and pro-choice organizations to alert women across the United States that the D.C. label on this bill is a cover for a bill that seeks to undermine the reproductive rights of women across the United States.

Women have been watching closely ever since the first attacks on reproductive health in the House this term. With the post-20-week D.C. abortion bill, Republicans have left no doubt that the reproductive freedom of America's women depends upon a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President.

RECOGNIZING ALLYN LAMB OF AGCHOICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allyn Lamb, the president and CEO of AgChoice, who will retire at the end of the year after decades of service to the agriculture community.

AgChoice is an agriculture credit association that provides a broad range of financial services to farmers and foresters all across Pennsylvania. Under Allyn's leadership, AgChoice has become a leading institution supporting the credit needs of farmers, as well as the mortgage credit needs of rural homeowners, for communities across the Fifth District of Pennsylvania and throughout the greater Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Even under a tough economy, AgChoice has consistently stayed financially sound while offering outstanding service and support to our agriculture communities.

With 32 years of service in the Farm Credit System, Allyn has spent his pro-

fessional career as a champion for agriculture and the individual farmer. We owe him a great deal of thanks for his tireless work and his committed leadership.

I want to thank you for your service, Allyn, and wish you well in your retirement.

REPUBLICANS ARE HOLDING AMERICA HOSTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority of this House is holding the American people and its economy hostage in a cynical ploy to keep the economy from growing and creating jobs.

In the year 2000, 12 years ago, the Federal budget had a \$258 billion surplus that was a direct result of having created 22 million private sector jobs under the Clinton administration. New road and bridge projects were funded and American businesses were providing the labor and equipment to help rebuild the Nation's infrastructure.

In the year 2001, the new Republican administration came in and looted a surplus that they didn't create to finance two tax cuts we couldn't afford and two wars that took over \$1 trillion out of the American economy. They ruined the American economy by losing more jobs than in any period in the past 60 years and created a financial crisis not seen since the Great Depression. The Republican Party and their failed policies took us from record surplus to record deficit.

In 2009, the Republicans handed this mess over to the current President and have vowed not to help him rebuild this Nation and its economy. They have created a phony debt limit crisis that reverberated throughout the American economy and the financial markets. The debt ceiling crisis cost American investors \$18 million and led to a downgrade of the Nation's credit rating. This debt limit crisis imposed a tax on the American people that did real and permanent damage.

Default, or the threat of default, will exact more economic damage on an already fragile recovery, and they're threatening to do it all again later this year—this, despite the fact that the House Republican budget resolution spends \$1 trillion more than it takes in in revenue. The logical consequence of their budget, the Republican budget, is to raise the debt ceiling.

We need to nation build right here in America. Our Nation's roads and bridges are falling part. You have 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in this Nation. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a bridge that is structurally deficient. The Senate and the House just passed a \$105 billion transportation bill to spend less than \$53 billion in each of the next 2 years. While it is something, it's weak—in fact, it's pathetically weak. It will fill

a few potholes, surely, but won't reconstruct roads or build bridges. It will create some jobs but won't put a dent in the unemployment rate.

We need to do nation building right here at home in America. Congress just spent \$65 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq, a nation of 26 million people. You just spent \$78 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan, a nation of 30 million people. And all you can come up with is \$53 billion for nation building in America, our Nation, a Nation of over 300 million people.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave us a D grade, and they and the United States Chamber of Commerce agree that the poor quality of America's infrastructure costs our economy hundreds of billions of dollars in lost growth.

To grow this economy and create jobs, we need to invest in rebuilding the roads, bridges, water, and sewer systems of this country. According to the New America Foundation, a 5-year, \$1.2 trillion American rebuilding plan would create 27 million jobs. In the first year alone, the economy would add 5.2 million jobs, or 433,000 jobs each month, and the economy would grow by over \$400 billion. Unemployment would be reduced to 6.2 percent in the first year alone and 5.6 percent in the second year.

This is a real and compelling jobs plan. The best tax policy is to bring back into the economy lost taxpayers and to buy labor, materials, equipment, and services from American small businesses.

Austerity didn't work in the United States in 1937, it didn't work in Japan in the 1990s, and it's not working in Europe and the United States today. To grow the economy, we need to invest and save. House Republicans need to stop whining about China and stand up for America.

HEALTH CARE LAW REPEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, the House and Congress this week should pass the health care repeal bill because the President's health care bill is making the economy worse.

I saw a recent poll that said 50 percent of small businesses are less likely to hire new employees because of the health care bill. As an example, in my district, I spoke to a small business owner who is scared to hire his 50th employee because it would subject his company to the mandates under the health care law.

Greg Fortney, who is a small business owner, told me he has great concerns about the health care law. He said it would prevent him from expanding his operations and giving his employees a chance to grow their own businesses. To comply with the health care law, it would take all of the prof-

its from his business, his annual profits, just to comply.

We need small business owners focused on creating jobs, not worrying about complying with a new mandate.

And it will tax our families who are struggling. Just last night, on a telephone town hall, I heard from a real estate agent who was concerned about the 3.8 percent tax on sales of homes that will go into effect in January of 2013. On a \$100,000 home, that's \$3,800, and it could make the difference between somebody being able to sell their home for a profit and a loss. So this isn't on the gain; this is on the net price. It has nothing to do with the health care bill. It was just a way to pay for the extra costs in the bill.

The bottom line is that the health care bill is making the economy worse. It's hurting job creators and it's hurting real estate values. We need to repeal it and start over by focusing on cutting costs in our health care system and improving the efficiency. If we have a real crisis in health care, it's a crisis of cost.

PRESIDENT OBAMA CARES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, "ObamaCare" was coined by the Republicans to mock the wonderful Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in 2010 and signed into law by President Obama.

The recent Supreme Court decision proves that ObamaCare was the perfect nickname because President Obama cares. He cares about you. He cares about me. He cares about my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle and he cares about my friends on the Republican side of the aisle.

□ 1100

He cares about all Americans. President Obama cares about us, and he thinks that we should not have to worry about going broke just because someone in our family gets sick.

Because Obama cares, every American has the right to affordable health care. And yet the Republicans hate it with every fiber of their being. Why?

Don't Republicans get sick, too? Don't Republicans worry about having to file for bankruptcy just because someone in their family gets sick? Don't Republicans go to the emergency room with no insurance?

Later this week, the Republicans will vote to repeal a law that proves that Obama cares. Not "repeal and replace," as they said they would do when they made their Pledge to America—just repeal. In other words, get rid of it, period.

How can the Republicans explain to their constituents the repeal of a law that affords health care for everyone? Are they trying to send a message that Republicans don't need health care?

Republicans are not robots. They get sick, they need surgery, they feel pain, they hurt, they cry, they mourn, they weep. Access to affordable health care is a basic right. It's not a Republican right, a Democratic right or an Independent right. It's a basic right for all Americans.

Hello. If you're out there somewhere in America today and you feel you don't need health care because you are invincible, well, you are not. Do you feel that the rest of us should pay your medical bills? Enough of that already.

Do you feel that those less fortunate should suffer needlessly? Then you need to pray to your God for forgiveness.

You must care. You must care about the less fortunate, the working poor, the foster child, the disabled, the elderly, the mentally ill, the homeless, those wracked with pain. And all of Congress must care.

The Affordable Care Act shows that Obama cares. He cares enough to include a provision that ensures our children can no longer be denied health care because of a preexisting condition. Obama cares enough to include a provision that allows students and young people under 26 to stay on their parents' health insurance plan no matter where they live.

Obama cares enough to add language that closes the Medicare doughnut hole so that seniors pay less for their prescription drugs. They no longer have to decide whether to fill their prescriptions or buy some food.

Obama cares enough to put in provisions that insist that insurance companies cannot drop your coverage when you get sick or that prohibit insurance companies from placing annual and lifetime limits on your health care. Life is so unpredictable.

And Obama cares enough to include a provision that prevents insurance companies from charging higher premiums for women just because they happen to be women.

The law of our land says that if you have a car you must insure that car. If you have a mortgage, you must insure that mortgage. If you have a body, insure it. Keep it healthy. Get your checkups, take your medication. What is more important to you, your luxury car, your beautiful house, or a healthy body?

Every Member of Congress has wonderful health care insurance, and our pharmacy bills are so cheap it's unbelievable. It's simply great being covered by my health care in Congress.

Shouldn't we want the same for our constituents who sent us here to serve them? Shouldn't we care?

President Obama cares. NANCY PELOSI cares. STENY HOYER cares. JAMES CLYBURN cares. JOHN LARSON cares. XAVIER BECERRA cares, and I care.

Republicans out there, can you hear me?

You should make all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives care.