

Gibson	Matheson	Sánchez, Linda
Graves (MO)	McDermott	T.
Green, Gene	McGovern	Sanchez, Loretta
Griffin (AR)	Meehan	Schakowsky
Guinta	Moore	Schilling
Hanna	Murphy (PA)	Sires
Hastings (FL)	Nugent	Slaughter
Heck	Olver	Stivers
Herrera Beutler	Pallone	Terry
Hinchey	Pastor (AZ)	Thompson (CA)
Holt	Paulsen	Thompson (MS)
Hoyer	Pelosi	Tipton
Israel	Peters	Towns
Johnson (OH)	Peterson	Velázquez
Keating	Quayle	Vislosky
Kind	Rahall	Walberg
Kinzinger (IL)	Reed	Walden
Kucinich	Renacci	Walsh (IL)
Larson (CT)	Ribble	Welch
Latham	Rigell	Wittman
Lee (CA)	Roe (TN)	Woodall
LoBiondo	Rooney	Yoder
Lowey	Ryan (OH)	Young (AK)

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 724, the bill is considered read.
 The text of the bill is as follows:
 H.R. 6079

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
 This Act may be cited as the “Repeal of Obamacare Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
 Congress finds the following with respect to the impact of Public Law 111-148 and related provisions of Public Law 111-152 (collectively referred to in this section as “the law”):

(1) President Obama promised the American people that if they liked their current health coverage, they could keep it. But even the Obama Administration admits that tens of millions of Americans are at risk of losing their health care coverage, including as many as 8 in 10 plans offered by small businesses.

(2) Despite projected spending of more than two trillion dollars over the next 10 years, cutting Medicare by more than one-half trillion dollars over that period, and increasing taxes by over \$800 billion dollars over that period, the law does not lower health care costs. In fact, the law actually makes coverage more expensive for millions of Americans. The average American family already paid a premium increase of approximately \$1,200 in the year following passage of the law. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts that health insurance premiums for individuals buying private health coverage on their own will increase by \$2,100 in 2016 compared to what the premiums would have been in 2016 if the law had not passed.

(3) The law cuts more than one-half trillion dollars in Medicare and uses the funds to create a new entitlement program rather than to protect and strengthen the Medicare program. Actuaries at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) warn that the Medicare cuts contained in the law are so drastic that “providers might end their participation in the program (possibly jeopardizing access to care for beneficiaries)”. CBO cautioned that the Medicare cuts “might be difficult to sustain over a long period of time”. According to the CMS actuaries, 7.4 million Medicare beneficiaries who would have been enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan in 2017 will lose access to their plan because the law cuts \$206 billion in payments to Medicare Advantage plans. The Trustees of the Medicare Trust Funds predict that the law will result in a substantial decline in employer-sponsored retiree drug coverage, and 90 percent of seniors will no longer have access to retiree drug coverage by 2016 as a result of the law.

(4) The law creates a 15-member, unelected Independent Payment Advisory Board that is empowered to make binding decisions regarding what treatments Medicare will cover and how much Medicare will pay for treatments solely to cut spending, restricting access to health care for seniors.

(5) The law and the more than 13,000 pages of related regulations issued before July 11, 2012, are causing great uncertainty, slowing economic growth, and limiting hiring opportunities for the approximately 13 million Americans searching for work. Imposing higher costs on businesses will lead to lower wages, fewer workers, or both.

(6) The law imposes 21 new or higher taxes on American families and businesses, including 12 taxes on families making less than \$250,000 a year.

(7) While President Obama promised that nothing in the law would fund elective abortion, the law expands the role of the Federal Government in funding and facilitating abortion and plans that cover abortion. The law appropriates billions of dollars in new funding without explicitly prohibiting the use of these funds for abortion, and it provides Federal subsidies for health plans covering elective abortions. Moreover, the law effectively forces millions of individuals to personally pay a separate abortion premium in violation of their sincerely held religious, ethical, or moral beliefs.

(8) Until enactment of the law, the Federal Government has not sought to impose specific coverage or care requirements that infringe on the rights of conscience of insurers, purchasers of insurance, plan sponsors, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, such as individual or institutional health care providers. The law creates a new nationwide requirement for health plans to cover “essential health benefits” and “preventive services”, but does not allow stakeholders to opt out of covering items or services to which they have a religious or moral objection, in violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (Public Law 103-141). By creating new barriers to health insurance and causing the loss of existing insurance arrangements, these inflexible mandates jeopardize the ability of institutions and individuals to exercise their rights of conscience and their ability to freely participate in the health insurance and health care marketplace.

(9) The law expands Government control over health care, adds trillions of dollars to existing liabilities, drives costs up even further, and too often puts Federal bureaucrats, instead of doctors and patients, in charge of health care decisionmaking.

(10) The path to patient-centered care and lower costs for all Americans must begin with a full repeal of the law.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF OBAMACARE.

(a) PPACA.—Effective as of the enactment of Public Law 111-148, such Act (other than subsection (d) of section 1899A of the Social Security Act, as added and amended by sections 3403 and 10320 of such Public Law) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such Act (other than such subsection (d)) are restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted.

(b) HEALTH CARE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010.—Effective as of the enactment of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), title I and subtitle B of title II of such Act are repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such title or subtitle, respectively, are restored or revived as if such title and subtitle had not been enacted.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF THIS ACT.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, as long as such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 5 hours, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and minority leader or their designees, 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—3

Amash	Gohmert	Owens
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NOT VOTING—11

Akin	Gutierrez	Landry
Bishop (NY)	Hirono	Lewis (GA)
Bonner	Jackson (IL)	Miller, George
Grijalva	King (IA)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1453

So the Journal was approved.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 456, 457 and 458 I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 456, “yea” on rollcall No. 457 and “yea” on rollcall No. 458.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes yesterday and today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 452, 453, 454 and 455 and “nay” on rollcall votes 456, 457 and 458.

REPORT ON H.R. 6091, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-589) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 724, I call up the bill (H.R. 6079) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Workforce, 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6079.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

House Republicans promised the American people that, if granted the majority, we would vote to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as ObamaCare. Let's face it. ObamaCare is nothing like what was promised. Former Speaker PELOSI said we would have to pass the bill to find out what was in it. Rest assured, we found out.

Rather than reform health care, this law epitomizes Washington at its very worst—intrusive mandates, higher costs, red tape, unaffordable spending, taxes on employers and families, and the control of personal health care decisions by boards, bureaus, and agencies in Washington. Let's just consider the many broken promises.

President Obama promised that his reforms would lower family premiums by \$2,500 by the end of his first term, yet the cost of an employee-sponsored family plan increased to \$15,000 in 2011. The CBO projects, if we allow the rest of ObamaCare's mandates to kick in, premiums will rise further.

The President told us over and over that if you liked your health care plan you could keep it, yet the law pushes employers to drop coverage. The CBO estimates that up to 20 million American workers will lose their plans under ObamaCare.

The President said his law would cost a mere \$900 billion as if spending nearly \$1 trillion on a new program were thrifty.

□ 1500

Yet, when it is fully implemented, ObamaCare is estimated to cost taxpayers \$2.6 trillion over a decade. The President promised to make Medicare stronger. Instead, ObamaCare raided \$575 billion from Medicare to pay for new programs and entitlement expansions.

The President pledged that he would not raise taxes for households with incomes under \$250,000. Yet ObamaCare includes 21 new tax increases that will cost taxpayers roughly \$800 billion over the next decade. The IRS will impose new taxes on medical devices, prescription drugs, health coverage, high-premium health plans. The agency will place new restrictions on health saving accounts and flexible spending accounts. Employers will face a tax for failing to provide health plans approved by HHS and a new surtax on investment.

The President promised American taxpayers that they would not be forced to fund abortions and our conscience rights would be protected. Yet HHS is moving forward with a mandate that requires religious institutions to violate their principles or pay a steep fine. Or is the fine on faith going to be considered a tax as well, just like the individual mandate? The Supreme Court made clear that the mandate is a massive new tax, one that will primarily be levied on middle class households.

Repeal is also the only way to honor and restore the promises the President wisely made but foolishly broke. The Supreme Court rendered its diagnosis, but the American people will be offering a second opinion. We promised the American people that we would work to repeal this terrible law, and that is a promise we are keeping.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

This bill, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, would take away health security and cause over 30 million people to lose health coverage over the next decade. That's more people than the entire population of New York and Ohio. Yet here we go again, wasting time that should be spent on improving the economy and putting people to work. Instead, we're rehashing the same old arguments. Americans deserve health security.

What's in the bill? The law that the Republicans would seek to take off the books prevents people with preexisting conditions, like pregnant women, from being denied insurance or charged so much that they can't get coverage. The law says women should not pay higher premiums just because they are women.

People should have an easy, transparent marketplace to shop for quality insurance, and the hardworking middle class should receive subsidies to help them afford it. People should not be worried about losing health coverage if they lose their job. People should be encouraged to get preventive health services and not be charged for it. Small businesses should be helped if they want to offer health insurance.

America should no longer be a country with millions of people uninsured and unable to get health insurance. That's what the Republicans want us to go back to. They argue that they

want to repeal and replace ObamaCare. What's their replacement, RomneyCare? They have no replacement. They offer nothing to the American people. There is no proposal on how they would keep these 30 million people insured and end insurance company abuses like preexisting condition discrimination.

Let's move beyond this vote and show the American people this institution is about more than just politics. It's about doing what's right for American families. Let's affirm our commitment to bring health security to all Americans. Let us reject this Republican bill that would again have the House go on record repealing the law, which has not yet been fully put into place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, before I reserve whatever time I have, to empower our Health Subcommittee ranking member, Mr. FRANK PALLONE from the State of New Jersey, to be able to control the rest of the time for the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman will control the remainder of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the chair of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in March, to mark the 2-year anniversary of the signing of ObamaCare, I invited local doctors, business owners, and elected officials to talk about how the law will change the practice of health care on every level.

We heard from Dr. Gerald Rothacker about the law's failure to reform medical liability and how young doctors don't even realize they're practicing defensive medicine, ordering unnecessary tests, and driving up costs. We heard from Gary Alexander, Pennsylvania's secretary for the Department of Public Welfare, about how the law will cause State spending to explode in the coming years.

While Medicaid consumes 30 percent of the State budget now, if the law is fully implemented, it will consume over 60 percent. Pennsylvania won't be a State government. It will be a health plan that paves roads and funds schools on the side.

We also heard from Kirby Sensenig, the owner of a local roofing company. He spoke about the difficult choice he will have to make in coming years about whether to keep providing insurance for his workers, or to pay the penalty and cast them into the health care exchanges.

We all know how much health care reform was needed. We've all heard the stories about individuals denied care that they desperately needed. We've heard about the families who struggled to pay the bills when a child got sick. We all know someone who went without insurance because of the high cost

of premiums. But this law did not fix what was broken. It didn't deliver the reform the American people really wanted.

The savings, both for the government and for families, are an illusion. Don't pat yourselves on the back for gaming the CBO. There won't be a single dime saved by the law. Indeed, government spending will explode because of the law. ObamaCare's new entitlement program and massive Medicaid expansion is estimated to cost taxpayers \$1.8 trillion over the next decade.

Things aren't much better for families under ObamaCare. In 2011 alone, the annual premium for an employer-sponsored family plan soared past \$15,000. That's a sharp 9 percent increase from 2010. Twenty new taxes impose additional costs on everything from flexible spending accounts to pacemakers. That's 20 new taxes in ObamaCare not yet implemented. It will be taxing medical devices, drug manufacturers, and insurers. It drives up the cost of care. It is a farce to think that government subsidies will balance out the increased costs imposed by all the new taxes and regulations.

Finally, the reach of the Federal Government has extended even to the conscience of religious charities and educational institutions. When the government takes over health care, it takes over basic decisions of morality that should be left up to individuals. It's far past time we ended the destruction of our health care system by a poorly designed and administered law. Full repeal is the only way to get to real reform. I urge support for the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Today reminds me of the movie "Groundhog Day." For those of you who aren't familiar with the movie, it's about a TV weatherman who finds himself repeating the same day over and over again. No matter what he does, he's stuck on the same day. Does that sound familiar? I think it does.

Today, we will take yet another show vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act which will never become law. In fact, we're wasting 2 days debating its repeal when Congress should be focusing on jobs and reducing the deficit. This exercise in futility does nothing but attempt to turn the clock back on all the many benefits already in place for Americans across this country. Meanwhile, it increases the deficit, puts insurance companies back in charge of America's health care, increases costs, cuts benefits for Medicare seniors, and eliminates \$40 billion in tax credits to help make insurance more affordable for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act ensures that hardworking middle class families will get the security they deserve and protects every American from the worst insurance company abuses. The law includes numerous provisions to keep health care costs low, promote prevention, and hold insurance companies accountable.

For those Americans who already have health care, whether through private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act is already making your coverage more secure. For example, insurance companies no longer have unchecked power to cancel your policy, deny your child coverage due to a preexisting condition, or charge women more than men.

□ 1510

Over 80 million Americans have gained coverage of preventive care free of charge, like mammograms for women and wellness visits for seniors. Nearly 13 million Americans will receive a rebate this summer because their insurance company spent too much of their premium dollars on administrative costs or CEO bonuses, and 5.3 million seniors and people with disabilities have saved an average of over \$600 on prescription drugs and the doughnut hole in Medicaid coverage, Medicare coverage. Also, 6.6 million young adults have been able to stay on their parents' plans until the age of 26, including 3.1 million young people who were newly insured—and I hear about this all the time when I am home in my district.

For those Americans who yet don't have health insurance, help is really on the way. Starting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act will offer an array of quality, affordable, private health insurance plans to choose from. If someone can't afford insurance, or for a small business that wants to provide affordable insurance to their employees, tax credits are available that make coverage affordable.

The result of this repeal, which the Republicans are putting forth today, is to basically say that millions of middle class Americans will lose out on new health freedoms and new health coverage that make a positive difference in their lives. Rather than refight these old partisan battles by starting over on health care and repealing basic protections that provide security for the middle class, Congress needs to work together to focus on the economy and create jobs.

The House Republican leadership would do well to seek bipartisan solutions to jobs and the economy instead of seeking this repeal.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman emeritus of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

(Mr. BARTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I thank the distinguished chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill before us this afternoon and in opposition to what is colloquially called ObamaCare.

All of the comments of the proponents of the bill that have been made in the past in support have generally

turned out to either not be true at all or to be only partially true. They said that they were having the individual mandate under the Commerce Clause. The Supreme Court said that's unconstitutional, you couldn't do it. So even though you said that's what you were doing, you're really not.

The proponents said the penalties in the bill were not taxes. Well, the Supreme Court in a 5-4 majority several weeks ago said, well, really, you're not regulating the mandate and the penalties under the Commerce Clause because that would be unconstitutional. You're actually doing it under the taxation clause.

We're kind of in an Alice in Wonderland situation here. What is true is that if this law is enforced, millions of Americans are going to pay much more for health care, and we're not going to get better quality care. People like myself oppose the bill, not because we don't want every American to have health care, but because we want Americans to have choices and to make individual choices about their health care.

This law, if enforced, mandates things. It mandates the coverage. It mandates what you have to have. It mandates what can be paid for it. This Independent Payment Advisory Board over time will probably mandate how doctors practice medicine.

I personally think that's wrong. That's why I believe, since the Supreme Court has ruled 5-4, that we ought to have another repeal vote, even though admittedly we had one over a year ago. We should repeal it, we should put everybody on record right now where they stand, send the bill to the other body and see if we can't get the majority leader over there to also have a vote. Then as people go into the election, we know where the Congress stands on this issue.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I think that today is really a sad day. It's a sad day for the House, and I can't help but think of Shakespeare: Thou doth protest too much. Now, it is very clear that my Republican friends have been opposed to any kind of national health care for as long as I can remember.

But today is really quite extraordinary because the Congress not only voted, shaped on, voted on, passed, the President signed into law, it was challenged, it went to the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice and four other Justices of the Supreme Court of our land have upheld the law for health care accessibility for every single American, all God's children. And what do the Republicans do but come to repeal.

My question is, What are you for? Where's your plan? I have been in the minority party. You've had time. This is the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Where is your plan? You talk about markets, you talk about costs, you talk about whatever; but you have no plan for the American people.

Now you've placed yourself in a position of a takeaway, and I think that's what is sad. It's sad for the American people, but it's not going to happen because the Supreme Court upheld the law.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. STEARNS.

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. The gentlelady from California knows full well—she serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee—all during the markup of ObamaCare we had an alternative health plan.

I'm proud to cosponsor this bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, because the act is not affordable.

Cutting half a trillion dollars from Medicare to pay for new spending is wrong. Savings in Medicare should stay in Medicare. How severe are these cuts to Medicare? The Chief Actuary for CMS reports that 15 percent of hospitals will be unprofitable within 10 years. These cuts can endanger the viability of the hospital system and jeopardize the health care available for seniors.

Now, we have a whole alphabet soup of new agencies that are created by this monstrosity of a law. Let me tell you, the IPAD, the Independent Payment Advisory Board, we all know what that's going to do; PCORI, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institutes; CCIIO is the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, they set up all the exchanges; the PCIP, which is the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan. I mean, these are all new government agencies.

We need to repeal this law and start anew with commonsense solutions that encourage innovation without punishing businesses, seniors, or individuals.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my friend for yielding to me.

I rise in strong opposition to the legislation before us to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I won't support legislation which would allow health insurance companies to deny children access to care, which would cause Americans to lose their health care insurance, which would reopen the dreaded Medicare prescription drug doughnut hole, and throw young adults off their parents' insurance policies.

Republicans have proudly stated that this is the 31st repeal vote the House has taken. While the economy struggles to recover, it pains me that we have wasted so much time on these

symbolic and political votes that are going nowhere.

The Republicans wanted the Supreme Court to decide on health care, and now our Supreme Court has spoken and they are still fighting it. It's time that everyone accepts the result of the Supreme Court.

This has been a long fight, and now it's over. If there are changes that need to be made to the Affordable Care Act, we should work together to make them; but partisan efforts to repeal the entirety of the law isn't what we should be doing.

I don't want insurance companies getting between patients and their doctors. I don't like the current system where the insurance companies deny you coverage or say you have a pre-existing condition or say you have a cap and they won't pay any more. This bill attempts to get health insurance companies, health insurance, away from the insurance companies who try to control everything and back into the hands of the consumers.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill, and I implore the Republican leadership to turn their focus instead on the economy and on jobs.

This health care bill, there have been so many lies spread about it, that it's unbelievable. The fact of the matter is, it's a good bill. It will take the 50 million Americans that don't have health care and reduce it to nothing. It's a good bill for the American people.

We shouldn't be wasting our time.

□ 1520

Mr. UPTON. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr. WHITFIELD), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I might add that health insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies helped write the President's health care bill. And 2 years ago, when the discussion was on the floor about this bill, our friends on the other side of the aisle never talked about tax increases in the bill. I assume they didn't talk about it because they didn't know about it because the Speaker at that time said we'll find out what's in the bill after we pass the bill.

Well, when the Supreme Court upheld this law, they did so because of the taxing power of the Congress, and they said certain things were taxes. That brought up the issue of taxes. So when we went through this bill, we found 21 new taxes on the American people that will amount to about \$800 billion over 10 years. Taxes on high-cost health plans, taxes on health insurance providers, taxes on brand-name drugs, taxes on medical devices, taxes on flexible spending accounts, and others. I could go on and on and on.

I would urge the repeal of this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I rise in strong opposition to the repeal of the

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This Congress has spent most of our time voting on messaging bills and very little time actually legislating. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle and I agree on many issues. We even agree on some of the shortcomings in the Affordable Care Act. No bill is perfect, and we should be spending our time improving it, not abolishing it.

Repealing this bill is a vote to drop college students from their parents' health plan. It's a vote to allow insurance companies to discriminate against women and withhold lifesaving procedures because of preexisting conditions. It would stop 13 million Americans from receiving rebates on their health care premiums. A repeal would mean children, families, and working Americans are denied health insurance. In our district in Houston, Harris County, Texas, we have one of the highest uninsured rates in the country. The bill today denies my hardworking constituents the chance to qualify and purchase health insurance.

There's no question that repeal is a bad policy. This is all politics. Mr. Speaker, I ask the majority to put partisanship aside and reach across the aisle to improve this law and not resort to partisan gimmickry that exposes our Nation's most vulnerable to even more pain and suffering.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let's face it, the law that's on the books takes \$500 billion out of Medicare and spends it on a new entitlement program. I don't think taking money away from seniors' health care to create a new government-run program is right—and neither do the American people.

I was a small business owner since 1986. We provided health insurance for the people who worked for us. As a small business owner, what I wanted was the ability to group up and have more effect in negotiating lower insurance rates for the people that we covered. This law doesn't really help in any regard with that. In fact, this is a jobs vote we're having today, because if you're a small business and you're at 49 employees, if you go to 51, then all of a sudden the government comes in on top of you with all kinds of potential penalties and fees.

And so a lot of small business owners in my district are saying: Why would I grow my business? Why would I take on this new risk? I think this stymies job growth.

I can tell you that out at Eastern Oregon University I met with the university president. They used to have a student health plan that cost \$66 a term. Because of this law and its implication, that plan went up to \$2,000 a year. They've had to walk away from it.

This law is hurting people today. It needs to be repealed and replaced.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, we get the message: the Republican majority wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We got that message the last 30 times they tried to repeal it. And after this week, the 30 million Americans who have lived in fear of bankruptcy because they didn't have health insurance before the Affordable Care Act are left to ask the same question that I've been asking for the last 30 votes: What would you replace it with?

What would the Republicans tell the millions of Americans with kids with preexisting conditions like asthma and diabetes who would lose their insurance after this vote? What would they tell the millions of seniors who have lower prescription drug prices and prevention care, which would evaporate if this bill passed? What would they tell women who, under the Affordable Care Act, won't have to pay higher insurance rates simply because they're women? What would they tell the millions of young adults who are able to stay on their parents' insurance plans who would be thrown off if this bill passed?

All of those benefits and more would evaporate with this vote. And the Republican majority has nothing to say.

I have an idea. Let's put this silliness aside. While these benefits continue to roll out, let's stop the political grandstanding and instead come together to make sure the law is implemented in the best possible way. That's governing. And that's what the American public sent us here to do.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is just the opposite—unaffordable. It's chock-full of new taxes, increased government spending, and provisions that are going to make health care more expensive. CBO found that this new law's insurance mandates will raise premiums on the individual market by an additional \$2,100 per person. The Kaiser Family Foundation found that individual premiums have already, because of this, gone up 8 percent for families and 9 percent for individuals. And this law isn't even fully implemented yet.

To add insult to injury, there's 159 new boards, offices, and panels—like IPAB—that give unelected bureaucrats the authority to ration health care. It raises taxes by \$670 billion on middle class families and employers. At a time when we have Federal deficits and prolonged unemployment, it increases total Federal Government health spending by about \$478 billion from 2014 to 2021.

I have voted to repeal this 30 times, and I will keep doing it until we get it right.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague.

I rise today in strong opposition to this bill that would take away insurance protections and new access to health care from tens of thousands on the central coast of California. Thanks to this law, families are telling me they no longer need to worry that their children will be denied insurance due to a preexisting health condition. In my district alone, 9,500 students—young adults—now have health insurance through their parents' plan. A young college graduate recently came up to me at the grocery store thanking me for the peace of mind as he's looking for a job.

In my community, 59,000 seniors now receive free preventive care and thousands of seniors in the dreaded doughnut hole have received discounts for prescription drugs, saving an average of \$610. Now some folks around here may not think that much of a savings of \$600. But for so many, this makes a world of difference. Indeed, one of my constituents, Ella May from Nipomo, wrote this to me, saying that thanks to this law, "I won't be impoverished again by the cost of my medicines."

But this House majority has set up yet another vote to take away these benefits from Ella May, from my community, and from the Nation. Mr. Speaker, we should be working to stimulate growth in our economy and spur job creation, not voting for a 31st time on repealing this law.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

Mr. UPTON. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Dr. Murphy.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I have never doubted my friends on the other side of the aisle's compassion or sincerity, but have always believed there was a better way of handling these health care costs to make sure that we all get the health care we need and the doctor we choose at a price we can afford.

Here are some ways we need to do this:

Allow people to buy across State lines. A University of Minnesota study said it would drop the uninsured by 12 million;

The ability to join groups, because the purchasing power of groups is what is making Medicare part D come in at 40 percent under budget;

□ 1530

Put an emphasis on coordinated care, which decreases hospitalizations and avoidable readmissions and complications, sometimes by 20 to 40 percent;

By making sure health care plans are personal, affordable and permanent, you can take the plan you need across jobs and you can't be cut for being sick;

To make sure there are tax deductions for buying insurance just like employers have, to allow the chronically ill to be part of high-risk pools;

To encourage people to take steps in their own life to maintain their own health, and;

To have better use of prescription drugs, generic and nongeneric, which also saves a massive amount of money because some \$250 billion a year is wasted in drug problems.

We need this instead of \$570 billion in new taxes in a \$1.76 trillion bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire about how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 16¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I know that many Americans have heard over and over again that ObamaCare is a bad thing. But now that the Supreme Court has declared it the law of the land, I hope that everyone will take another look and see what's actually in the law and how it can help you.

Right now, because of ObamaCare, if you're a woman, you have free preventive services like mammograms. I hope you'll take advantage of that. And no longer will being a woman be a pre-existing condition because insurance companies charge women up to 48 percent more for their health insurance. And because of ObamaCare, right now, if you're a parent and you have a sick child, a child with a disability, that child may not be denied health coverage. No one has to worry about lifetime caps anymore because of ObamaCare.

My son, a small businessman, said, Thanks, Mom, because of ObamaCare, 35 percent of the cost of coverage for my employees is paid for. And when fully implemented, no one will have to worry about having a preexisting condition. No one will be excluded. If you're an unemployed person and you lost your job and your health care, ObamaCare will make sure that you can get coverage.

For the first time in the United States of America, we say that health care is a right and not just a privilege for those people to can afford it.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would yield 2 minutes to the vice chair of the Health Subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS, and when he concludes speaking, I ask unanimous consent that the rest of my time be controlled by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PRITS), the chair of the Health Subcommittee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, from its very inception, this law was bad and remains bad for America. It was written in secret down at the White House. Now our committee has exposed all the secret deals that went on literally 3 years ago this month that led to the

formation and the writing of the legislation behind closed doors—the very doors that the President, when he was running for office, said would always remain open. He said this would be an open and transparent process. But when it came time to actually write the law, they invited the lobbyists in, they closed the doors, and they wrote the law.

We all remember the travesty of December 2009 when the Senate passed a bill out the day before Christmas, right before a snowstorm, and this bill that was hastily drafted, full of errors, full of problems, was passed out of the Senate, and that's what was signed into law. It wasn't even a good rough draft. It never came back to the House, and it never came to a conference committee. The dog ate our homework on the way to the President's office, and we just passed the rough draft and sent it on to the American people, and, by golly, they'll just have to live with it.

Look, there were some promises made by the President 4 years ago. One of those promises was, if you liked what you had you could keep it. It turns out what he should have been saying was, do you know what? It's going to cost you a lot more to get a lot less. There were promises made to seniors that their care would not be harmed with the passage of this law, but we all know now that that's anything but true. What about our provider communities? They were promised relief from the sustainable growth rate formula. They were promised some medical liability reform. They were promised that if we expect doctors to hold down costs, we're going to at least let them get together and talk about price. But none of these things came into being, and instead, what did we get? A bill that contains 23 new taxes, albeit one has been repealed and one has been postponed under the CLASS Act, but, still, 21 taxes that remain out there for the American people.

It was not necessary for it to be like this. There were Republican ideas that were stymied at the committee level, and then, of course, ultimately every House idea was stymied because the House simply took up and passed a very bad Senate bill. Kids on until 26, this was part of the Republican plan from 3 years ago. It could have been part of a bipartisan plan had the Democrats chosen to do so. They rejected that notion.

I urge you to repeal this law. Let's get back to work and do it right for the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, the Republican majority is actually telling the American people that they're better off—better off—not getting rebates from insurance companies for covering their health care expenses;

better off not getting preventive services under Medicare; that the American people getting coverage from comprehensive women's prevention services that they never had before, you're going to be better off not getting them.

This is what people have today in America because of the Affordable Care Act. The majority is telling the American people they're better off not getting protection from getting cut off when certain medical costs are incurred. They're telling the American people you're better off by not getting restrictions removed so that children get coverage despite a preexisting condition; that you're better off not getting health coverage for children up to age 26 on a parent's health insurance policy; and that you're better off for not getting health help for Medicare recipients that fall into the doughnut hole.

The truth is they had over 10 years to come up with an idea, with a proposal, and nothing was ever done to help the American people gain access to affordable quality health care through the private market, because this is what this bill is all about—11 years, actually. And you keep saying that you have an alternative. You're going to repeal and replace, but you haven't come up with one proposal. You only know how to oppose and not propose.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I stand here today to support the repeal of ObamaCare. Some of you are asking, how many times are we going to do this? We're going to keep at it until we get this legislation off the books. It was a bad bill, it has become a bad law.

Quite frankly, if you are satisfied with a tax-based, government-controlled, limited-access and bureaucrat-centric health care program, then this is for you. That is what ObamaCare is. That is not what the American people want. And repeatedly, they have said to us, look, Congress should admit ObamaCare was a bad idea. Let's start fresh with a clean slate. Let's focus on increasing choice and options, decreasing cost and mandates, simplifying the system for both patients and providers, and making certain that we restore the \$500 billion of cuts that were made to Medicare and make health care tax free.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. If you don't succeed, try and try again. Republicans are taking this phrase to a whole new level. House Republicans will vote for the second time to overturn essential provisions in the Affordable Care Act, and, yes, for the 32nd time, to dismantle it altogether.

This repeal vote is a waste of time and tax dollars.

□ 1540

We all know that this bill will never pass the Senate, and the President would assuredly veto it. This is purely an act of political posturing, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should stop their obstruction.

Mr. Speaker, if the Republican majority was just as concerned with introducing a comprehensive jobs package as they've been with repealing this constitutional law that was, yes, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, Americans and our economy would be in a much better condition.

Stop wasting our time with political theater and try passing some beneficial, landmark bills of your own. My friends on the other side, you have a wrecking ball. Where is your plan?

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I'm happy to yield 2 minutes to another distinguished member of the Health Subcommittee, the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I would like to introduce you to Sole Commissioner Boss Hog from Hazzard County, Georgia. Boss Hog used his position of authority to terrorize the citizens of his community with the help of henchmen like Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrane in the 1970s television show "The Dukes of Hazzard."

Mr. Speaker, today, life imitates art. We now have another boss in our midst—I call this boss ObamaCare. The only health care that citizens of this country can access are those approved by the boss.

If you like what you currently have, you can't keep it. Let me repeat, if you like what you currently have, you can't keep it, according to the boss, the boss and his henchmen who help fund this tyranny. They include the biggest permanent tax increase on Americans, borne in large part by middle class families and the employers who give them jobs.

It enacts a \$500-plus billion cut to the Medicare program, all while the program is going bankrupt. And finally, new rules that allow the boss to dictate how doctors actually practice medicine. No longer will my colleagues in the medical profession be able to put the needs of their patients first.

Mr. Speaker, our Forefathers rejected tyranny, and so should we. Support H.R. 6079, a bill that would repeal ObamaCare. Let's get rid of the boss once and for all.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman Pallone for yielding the time.

He started off the debate by saying this debate reminds him of the movie "Groundhog Day." I think he's right. It reminds me of a summer rerun. Republicans are forcing another political debate on the Affordable Care Act—a tired rerun—when the Republicans should be joining us in focusing on creating jobs and boosting the economy.

That is our number one priority this summer.

It's a real shame. In fact, it's disheartening to hear my Republican colleagues urge repeal of vital consumer protections for American families. My Republican colleagues are undermining the economic security of middle class families in doing so. They are urging the elimination of important improvements to Medicare, like closing the doughnut hole, putting cash back into the pockets of seniors who need it at this time. And what they're saying is that it's okay that people don't take personal responsibility for their health and their health care, and I think that's wrong. It is not fair that if you pay those health insurance premiums time after time and those copays, that you end up picking up the tab for those who do not. That's not fair. The Affordable Care Act targets that for replacement and encourages personal responsibility.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to waste our time here, but let's come together. Let's work and focus on improving the economy and creating jobs. That really is our number one priority.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, the policies and regulations resulting from the President's health care law are among the most overreaching added to the U.S. Code in modern history. Further, the President himself has said that his law's individual mandate is not a tax; yet he is now rallying behind the Supreme Court ruling that defined this requirement as just that, a tax.

Look, I have little confidence that this far-reaching law would have ever advanced had the White House and congressional Democrats united behind a tax mandate on every single American citizen.

Let's be clear: the Supreme Court ruled that this law is allowable, not that it's good policy, nor that it will improve the delivery of care. This law is bad for patients and providers, it's bad for individuals and employers, and it's bad for States and jobs. This repeal will allow Americans to receive the care they need from the doctors they choose at a cost they can afford. It's that simple.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN).

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, this Republican majority's effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act is bad legislation that would undermine significant advancements of the delivery of health care services to all Americans. But let me be clear: this bill would repeal the single-most important Federal law that governs the delivery of health care to our first Americans, Native Americans. It's an assault on our Federal responsibility to tribal commu-

nities who, without the Indian health care system, would not have meaningful access to health care services. Our Republican majority swept the rug out from Native American women and took them out of the act to protect them from domestic violence. This act that Republicans have put before us would hurt people in a very serious way.

The act makes possible long-awaited improvements to the Indian health care delivery system by providing authority to provide cancer screenings, dialysis, as well as all hospice and elder care, recruit more qualified health professionals, modernize dated health facilities, and establish comprehensive behavioral health initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reject this health plan, and we need to reject this effort by Republicans which is causing harm to Native Americans across America.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 1 minute to another valued member of the Health Subcommittee, the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. CASSIDY.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, as a practicing physician still seeing patients in a safety net hospital, I support repealing ObamaCare.

Let's look at Medicaid, a broken program bankrupting States and driving Federal indebtedness and, most importantly, under which patients do poorly.

Under ObamaCare, Medicaid is greatly expanded, spending increases \$100 billion, straining State and Federal budgets. We need an alternative to ObamaCare's Medicaid bankrupting governments and Medicaid's poor patient outcomes.

One reform I propose is the Medicaid Accountability and Care Act, or the MAC Act. The MAC Act controls spending, incentivizes quality care, helps Federal funding to follow the patient. There are other needed reforms.

Chief Justice Roberts' opinion said that it is not the duty of the Supreme Court to rescue the American people from bad public policy; that is up to elected officials. Republicans seek to rescue Americans from bad policy. We offer positive policy for States, taxpayers and, most importantly, patients.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, have you ever seen the movie "Fatal Attraction"? It's a great film. The Glenn Close character is so obsessed with Michael Douglas that she does everything within her power to try to win him over, flipping out at the end of the movie by going and boiling the Douglas family bunny. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that, having now had 30 different debates on this floor over repeal of the health care bill, the House Republicans have finally hit their boil-the-bunny moment.

Enough is enough. The American people want us to move on. And what they would suggest is, instead of listen-

ing to their inner Glenn Close, that maybe House Republicans should start listening to people like Colleen, a 61-year-old retired teacher from Danbury. She's got diabetes; she's got sleep apnea. What she wants is not more politics on the floor of the House of Representatives; she wants relief. She doesn't want another 5-hour debate on top of the other 29. She wants this bill implemented.

□ 1550

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6079, a bill to fully repeal ObamaCare.

The Supreme Court rightly declared the individual mandate unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause but, unfortunately, allowed it to continue as a tax—a tax. But the Supreme Court does not have the final say. The American people do at the ballot box in November. And the House has our say today.

Taxpayers face tight budgets and a weak economy. With the largest tax increase in American history happening on January 1 of next year, while the President plays political games, the last thing our taxpayers need is another tax, especially one that inserts the Federal Government between patients and their doctors.

We must repeal this intrusive law and replace it with thoughtful legislation that protects all Americans' access to quality care from the doctor they choose at a price they can afford.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to join me in taking the next step to repeal ObamaCare.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, respond to what my previous speaker on the other side has said because it's very important that we straighten the RECORD out.

This is not a tax for people to get health care insurance. What this is, the Supreme Court ruled, and again, chaired by a Republican chairman, Chief Supreme Court Justice, and he said that in order for the mandate to stand, Congress could only do it through their taxing authority. And that was to take care of the penalty.

This is not a tax for individuals to get their health insurance. CBO says it will only affect 1 percent of the American people, and that is a choice that they will make. It's not a tax penalty for you to get insurance. It's a penalty for those who can afford the insurance who choose not to buy the insurance.

Now, let me also make another point that is very clear. In addition to this being a program in which the vast majority of the American people approve, they do not want you to repeal their opportunity to have individuals, in these tough economic times, their children be able to stay on their insurance

till 26. They want that there. They do not want you to repeal them having to be denied insurance because of a pre-existing condition. And our hospitals need this very much in order to have the Medicaid expansion.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Supreme Court made one thing very clear, or the other day they made one thing very clear: the individual mandate is nothing more than a tax.

The overall tax burden that this puts on our economy is staggering. The overall tax burden this puts on the middle class is staggering. And along with those unprecedented personal taxes that this implements, let me point out two other major ones:

A \$20 billion device tax. Okay. You can pay for that, according to this bill;

A \$102 billion small business health insurance tax.

This bill clearly places a huge tax burden on the American people, as said by the Supreme Court.

And by the way, yesterday, the administration asked for a tax increase on the majority of small businesses. But don't worry, because that's only for a year, because in a year taxes will increase on all levels of income if the tax cuts are allowed to expire.

In 2010, the American people sent a message to Washington when they sent one of the largest, boldest freshman classes that they have ever sent to Washington, D.C. We were here with a mandate: Stop the tax hike; repeal this health care law. And we'll do that.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire again about the time on both sides that remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 6¾ minutes. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, but also for your unwavering and relentless leadership on so many important issues.

I rise in strong opposition to the GOP Patients' Rights Repeal Act. Here we go again, Mr. Speaker, wasting the American people's time on voting on this bill. I think it's for about the 31st time.

This Tea Party majority is so disconnected from reality that this House takes vote after meaningless vote on bills that have no chance of ever becoming law. One of the most conservative Courts in a generation has found the provisions of the health care law constitutional, and Tea Party representatives immediately took to the steps of the Supreme Court to blast the Court as activist and promised a full repeal.

Let's call this what it is, Mr. Speaker. It's a politically motivated waste of time because Republicans have no serious jobs plan. I will say, though, that the only silver lining in this incredibly sad process is that the Tea Party has finally named a bill honestly, Patients' Rights Repeal Act, because this bill does exactly that, repeals the rights of millions of patients to access to health care.

Children now have a right to stay on their parents' policy until they are 26. Republicans want to repeal this right.

Patients have a right to not have lifetime caps on their policies nor have preexisting conditions prevent them from getting health care insurance. Republicans want to now repeal this right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. And let me just say, people will not have, under this bill, a right and responsibility to see a primary care doctor rather than have taxpayers pay for their primary care in emergency rooms if this Patients' Bill of Rights—or Patients' Rights Repeal Act were passed.

I tell you, our seniors, now they have a right to have a reduction in their prescription drugs. This right would be repealed under this GOP Patient's Rights bill. This is downright outrageous.

Health care finally is becoming a right. People in our country deserve health care. They deserve to have the benefits that our society has provided for so many years and helping achieve the American Dream.

Finally, they will not have to go bankrupt due to high health care costs. Finally, yes, they will have a right to health care, which of course now the Tea Party is calling for the repeal, as it is called, the GOP Patients' Rights Repeal Act.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG).

Mr. REHBERG. Yesterday, President Obama promised to increase taxes on our small businesses. At a time when we need to support job creation, raising taxes is the last thing we need to be doing. It makes the problem worse.

A couple of weeks ago, the Supreme Court confirmed that the President's health care law imposes the single largest permanent tax increase in history. Worse, nearly half of this regressive tax will hit the struggling middle class.

Add more than 13,000 pages of new health care regulations, so far, and it's easy to see why President Obama's economy doesn't create jobs. It's too busy creating government.

We need a new direction, but at every step the Senate stands in the way. The solution? Repeal this harmful law so we can get to work putting America back to work.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers at this time, so I'll reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished Member from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

□ 1600

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. We've heard a lot about taxes and the Supreme Court decision. I would like to talk about a tax that was labeled a "tax" in the Affordable Care Act when it was passed in 2010.

The act amended Internal Revenue Code section 4980(d), and it imposed a tax of \$100 per employee per day on any employer who did not follow any mandate of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. There was no conscience exemption, and there was no religious employer exemption; \$100 per employee per day is \$36,500 per year. That means that a parochial school with 50 employees has to pay a tax of \$1,825,000 each year.

The only way to repeal this tax today is to pass this bill. If this bill is defeated and does not become law, we have put all religious employers out of business.

Mr. PALLONE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished Member from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend back home in Lincoln, Nebraska, at a small business, a shop owner named Mary and another woman were engaged in conversation.

She looked up when they were done and saw me, and she said, Oh, I can ask you this question, Who is going to pay for this health care bill? I basically responded, Yes, that's the right question.

Right now, we are seeing some benefits from some reasonable reforms, such as being able to keep children on the health care policies of their parents until they're 26, such as allowing people who have significant pre-existing conditions some hope for affordable insurance. But there are other hard realities that must be faced here. This bill shifts costs to more unsustainable government spending. It cuts Medicare, and it erodes health care liberties. The total cost is now projected to be \$1.7 trillion, and it has 21 new taxes in it. Many small businesses are going to actually drop coverage or cut jobs as this moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, there is a better way to move forward. We need the right type of reform that will actually improve outcomes while reducing costs and protecting vulnerable persons.

Mr. PALLONE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM).

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to Congress, I made a promise to the people of Staten Island and to Brooklyn to repeal ObamaCare. Tomorrow, I will vote again to uphold that promise.

We must repeal this overwhelmingly burdensome and costly law, which is hurting our economy and impeding job growth for small businesses. It will reduce the American workforce by as much as 800,000 and impose \$813 billion in 21 new taxes. Twelve of those taxes impact families making less than \$250,000 a year.

One of the most devastating provisions in ObamaCare cuts over a half a trillion dollars from Medicare, primarily from Medicare Advantage. I have 107,000 seniors in my district, 38,000 of whom are enrolled in Medicare Advantage. This is simply reprehensible, and we must repeal this law to protect our seniors and our economy.

Mr. PALLONE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. BUERKLE).

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon as a nurse and as someone who has spent her professional career in health care. I ran for Congress because I was opposed to the Affordable Care Act, and I stand here today after 18 months of listening to the people in my district, because this law is the wrong law for health care reform in the United States of America.

When I hear from my hospitals, my skilled nursing facilities, my physicians, when I hear from small businesses, and when I hear from my seniors, they're all in fear of what this health care law is going to do to them. So I think it is incumbent upon this body, as we have a responsibility to the people who live in the United States of America, to provide them with true health care reform, reform that truly reduces the cost of health care and improves access to care. This Affordable Care Act that was just declared constitutional by the Supreme Court is not—is not—the way to do that.

Mr. PALLONE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

Mr. MULVANEY. I've heard a lot of good reasons today to pass this bill and to repeal the law. What I haven't heard is a discussion about why we should pass it in order to help the President. We have an opportunity here to do something wonderful. We have the opportunity here to help the President keep one of his campaign promises. It's here in bright white letters on a wonderful orange background:

I can make a firm pledge under my plan that no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase—not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.

By the way, politicians usually speak in language that allows us some wiggle room. There is no wiggle room in that particular promise. There is a list here of all the times that that promise has already been broken. We got the last

one—the most recent addition to that list—last week with the Supreme Court decision that told us what we've been saying from the very beginning, which is that this is yet another tax on families that make less than \$250,000.

What a great opportunity we have—all of us, both sides of the aisle. We have the opportunity to keep a politician to his promise, and we can do exactly that by passing this bill and repealing this law.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield myself 1 minute, Mr. Speaker.

I am amazed by the comments that the previous speaker made on the Republican side. The fact of the matter is that the Affordable Care Act amounts to a tax cut.

Right now, in the State of New Jersey, for people who are paying for their health insurance, we estimate that about \$1,000 or \$1,500 annually from their premiums is actually going to pay for those who are uninsured, for people who don't have insurance and have to go to the emergency rooms and then don't pay their bills.

Once the Affordable Care Act fully kicks in, because of the fact that everyone will be insured and all those people who now go to the emergency rooms and have no insurance will, in fact, have coverage, for the people who are paying their premiums right now, they're actually going to be paying less—it will be a tax cut—because they won't be paying for those people who now are uninsured.

I think it's really incredible because, if you think about it, the Republicans always talk about personal responsibility. How is it fair that people don't have themselves covered? How is it that they don't carry health insurance and then make other people pay for it?

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, our current health care insurance system is badly broken, but the President's Affordable Care Act will only make it worse. It will lead to fewer jobs, more debt, and reduced access to quality care. Most importantly, it doesn't even deal with our primary problem—affordability.

How can a more affordable solution result in an \$800 billion tax hike? Of the 21 new tax provisions in this law, 12 will target the middle class.

Instead of supporting the largest set of tax law changes in more than 20 years under the guise of health reform, we must repeal the law and take the time necessary to replace it with more patient-focused solutions. Pursuing consumer-driven reforms will allow Americans the flexibility to take ownership of their health care costs and will allow them the freedom to choose what plans work best for them and their families.

Mr. PALLONE. I will ask if the gentleman has any additional speakers.

Mr. PITTS. No. We are prepared to close.

Mr. PALLONE. How much time do I have remaining, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from New Jersey has 3/4 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. I will close at this time, and yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me say over again—and I know we've had this debate so many times that it really sounds like we just keep repeating the same thing—that this is a very important day at some level because the fact of the matter is the Republicans continue with this effort to try to repeal what is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that has ever passed in the last few years in the Congress and has been signed by the President.

The reason is that, for the first time, when the Affordable Care Act fully kicks in, most Americans—probably 98.99 percent of Americans—will have health insurance. We estimate maybe 30, 40—perhaps more—million Americans right now do not have health insurance.

□ 1610

There are probably as many who are what we call "underinsured." In other words, they can't really buy a good benefit package.

The fact of the matter is, by 2014, when the Affordable Care Act fully kicks in, you'll be able to go on an exchange either in your State or anywhere in the country and find a good benefit package, one that's as good probably as what you would get now under Blue Cross or Blue Shield, good benefits at a good price. That is an amazing thing. We've been here for 200 years in this country and were never able to say that that would actually happen.

I heard my colleagues on the Republican side in the Rules Committee say last night, We'll just repeal this and we'll come up with a better plan.

But they haven't come up with a better plan. They talk about health savings accounts and malpractice and all these different things that are basically around the edges. They would pretty much not guarantee most Americans, as they do under the Affordable Care Act, that they would be able to access health insurance, the peace of mind that goes with that and all the benefits that have already kicked in that would be repealed under this bill:

The fact that seniors eventually won't have to worry about the doughnut hole and will have their prescription drug coverage no matter how much they actually spend, that they'll only have to pay a co-pay; the fact that so many seniors now have preventive care; the fact that kids up to 26 years old can go on their parents' health insurance policy. So many people talk to me about that.

There's also the fact that preexisting conditions for women and others is no

longer a factor in terms of your ability to buy health insurance; the fact that there are no more lifetime caps, recisions, all these discriminatory practices that we've had in the past when you are trying to buy health insurance.

The fact of the matter is that already, over the last few years, most of these discriminatory practices have been eliminated. Many people may not even realize it's a result of the Affordable Care Act, but the fact is that it is. That's why these discriminatory practices are going away.

Last night, the chairman of the Rules Committee said, We'll repeal this and we will do something and be different, and the insurance companies will continue not to have these discriminatory practices. That's simply not true. The insurance companies will go back to the discriminatory practices if you repeal this bill. They'll almost be forced to. Because of the way this is set up, when everybody has health insurance, then the insurance companies can make enough money, if you will, so they don't have to discriminate. But they'll go back to it if this is repealed.

I ask my colleagues to stop bringing this up. This is a bad bill. Let's defeat it now, and let's continue the way we should with the Affordable Care Act in light of the Supreme Court's decision.

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

Mr. PITTS. If this new law is so outstanding, I wonder why the administration has granted over 1,000 waivers to their friends so they don't have to meet the requirements of the law.

The President promised not to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$250,000. He has broken that pledge 20 times with this new law. Many of them are impacting the middle class that he promised not to raise taxes on. That's \$800 billion in new taxes.

My friends, the American people have a clear choice: Keep this law and pay the new taxes or take the law off the books and let's start over again with some real free-market reforms.

I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We're here today to repeal a law that is both fundamentally flawed and overwhelmingly unpopular. The problem with this law, among its many faults, is it puts government at the center of health care decisions, not doctors and patients.

Instead of families and employers deciding what coverage is best for them, the Secretary of Health and Human Services makes that choice.

Instead of families and employers deciding what they can afford to spend on insurance, the IRS makes that decision.

Instead of families and employers deciding if they even need or want health insurance in the first place, the government mandates they purchase it.

This is all about the government. It is Washington knows best, and it's wrong.

By virtually every measure, this law is a failure. The price tag of the law has already doubled, health care premiums are going up, Americans are losing the insurance they have and like, taxes are being raised by over \$1.5 trillion, and 12 of the 21 new taxes in the law will hit the middle class. It increases costs for 9 out of 10 seniors. It's paid for with budget gimmicks that even the government's own actuaries admit are not workable.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the law hinders job creation, which is something we can hardly afford after 41 consecutive months of the unemployment rate being above 8 percent.

To put it bluntly, this law is bad for workers, seniors, families, patients, doctors, and employers. As the Supreme Court ruled, the cornerstone of the Democrats' health care law, the individual mandate, is a massive tax. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that approximately 20 million Americans will either pay the tax or be forced to buy insurance they otherwise wouldn't have purchased. That's 20 million people. Only two States in the U.S. have more than 20 million people: California and Texas. Clearly, this is a major tax with major implications.

Democrats have argued that the individual mandate was necessary to improve the Nation's health. What's next? Will they require you to purchase low-fat or low-salt foods, or will you have to pay a tax because they think it's good for you?

House Republicans have heard the American people loud and clear, and we will not let government—let alone the IRS—dictate your health care. We will repeal this law so you're again free to choose your health insurance plan, to choose your doctor, and to choose the medical treatment that best meets your needs. Most important of all, we will ensure you have the freedom to choose what's best for you and your family.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

After seven decades of frustrated efforts, the Congress and the President acted on health reform. It was seven decades that this institution wrestled with health reform. Finally, it happened.

The Republican answer: Repeal. First, it was repeal Social Security, then repeal Medicare, then repeal Medicaid by block-granting it to the States. Now it's the same old song: Repeal health care reform.

This Republican Party, the party of repeal, captured by the radical right, would now put insurance companies back in charge of health care and repeal coverage for 17 million children with preexisting conditions, repeal coverage for 6.6 million adults now covered under their parents' insurance plan, repeal tax credits for 360,000 small employers covering 2 million workers, re-

peal ending lifetime caps on insurance for 105 million, and repeal closing of the burdensome doughnut hole for seniors' prescription medicines.

The Republican Party of Repeal says: Repeal and replace. Yet there has not been a single comprehensive bill proposed by the Republicans at any point in this session or before. Indeed, the only comprehensive health plan presented by the Republicans was put forward by Mitt Romney when he was Governor of Massachusetts. This is how he described his plan as recently as 2010:

Right now, in lots of parts of the country, if individuals do not have insurance, they can arrive at the hospital and be given free care paid for by government. Our current system is a Big Government system. A conservative approach is one that relies on individual responsibility. But in my view, and others are free to disagree, expecting people who can afford to buy insurance to do so is consistent with personal responsibility, and that's a cornerstone of conservatism.

□ 1620

Well, the ones who are free to disagree are his fellow Republicans. The Massachusetts plan, with an individual mandate, reflected an original conservative Heritage Foundation proposal. Indeed, bills with an individual responsibility provision have been cosponsored by Republicans for two decades.

Now, however, Republicans have been captured by the radical right and taken a 180-degree turn. This repeal bill only deepens and widens the gulf handcuffing this Congress. You know, it's as if we live in two different universes. Let me tell you about the universe that is lived in by people who have sent letters to me.

I quote one, for example, from Warren:

I am 41 years old, and I was diagnosed with a form of arthritis about 3 years ago. Because the Supreme Court upheld ObamaCare, I don't have to worry anymore. I know that I can't be dropped from my insurance carrier.

A letter from Pamela of Madison Heights, talking about the premiums that she has seen. She is a nurse. She has seen how many people have been hurt by these costly premiums. She says:

I have watched those who have to undergo painful procedures, or those who have been given a poor prognosis, because they have not had access to preventive or even standard medical treatment due to the cost. She says the Affordable Care Act is right and just.

From David in Saint Clair Shores who says:

Honestly, I am a Republican, but I don't believe the health insurance bill should be repealed. I would like to see compromise towards improving the legislation, rather than destroying it entirely.

From Nancy of Clinton Township, who writes this:

The part of the CARE Act that is most important to my family, even my Republican husband, is the provision for our college-age daughter. Our insurance dropped her at the age of 19, and we had to buy a separate policy

that was very expensive and had poor coverage. Now we can save several thousands of dollars a year, which helps with her education. And it makes me sad that more people don't understand how wonderful this is. I would like the message to get out to more people.

It makes me sad, she says, that more people don't understand how wonderful this is.

You know, middle class families have had lots to worry about since trying to recover from the worst recession in decades. So instead of making it harder for them, putting insurance companies back in the driver's seat, we should let reform proceed.

I'm the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee. The chairman is here, too. We've had jobs bills thrown into the hopper that never come forth. Today we're going through the motions of repealing health reform for the 31st time this Congress.

What we need instead is to get the bills that are lodged in Ways and Means on jobs out on the floor and work together, instead of against each other and against the interests of the American people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I would just note that our health care bill was the only bill scored by the Congressional Budget Office that actually reduced the premiums.

I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Health Subcommittee, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, we have heard many perspectives on what the Supreme Court did in its health care ruling.

I want to focus on what the Court's decision did not change. The Supreme Court's ruling did not change the fact that the Democrat health law makes it more expensive for employers to hire workers. Businesses in my district have put their expansion plans on hold because they are worried about higher costs. This law was bad for jobs when it was passed, and it's still bad for jobs now.

The Court's ruling did not change the perverse incentives in the President's law that will encourage some employers to drop their health benefits. Millions of Americans will lose the coverage they have and like. That was true when this law was passed, and it's still true now.

The Court's ruling did not change the failure of the President's law to reduce health care costs. The administration's own Medicare actuaries concluded that this law will actually increase the overall cost of health care and CBO found it will raise health care insurance premiums as well. This was a serious failure when the law was passed, and it's still a serious failure today.

The Court's ruling did not change the 21 new taxes in the Democrat health care law. In fact, the ruling highlights how the President's law raises Americans' taxes to pay for an unsustainable new program at a time when unemployment remains far too high. These

tax hikes hurt our economy when they were passed, and they're still hurting our economy today.

That's why I began advocating for repeal of this bad law as soon as it was passed, and why I still support repeal today.

Vote "yes" for repeal.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 15 seconds.

If repeal occurred in California, it would mean the loss of coverage for 435,000 young adults. It also would mean over 12 million Californians would lose the ability to be sure that their lifetime limits would not kick in.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York, a very distinguished member of our committee, Mr. RANGEL.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, I know that history would reflect that this Presidential election started much earlier than most of them do. As a matter of fact, it started the very day that President Obama was sworn in. The honesty of this Republican Party was for them to say that the strategy for getting back the White House was to make certain that their primary job was to get rid of Obama. The destruction of the President of the United States and everything he stood for, every piece of legislation, every idea had to be destroyed as their strategy, not for America, but for their party.

Well, I assumed that this was just political rhetoric. I didn't put too much importance to it. But when the debt ceiling came, I felt it was just a little Republican ploy of playing chicken to see how much they could get.

But when I saw they were prepared to allow the fiscal integrity of the United States of America, and what it represented, to go down the drain just to embarrass the President, then I was nudged to take another look to see just how far would they go.

Then comes recently the Attorney General, where we just didn't seem to care what kind of bad history we were making for this great Republic. We were going to, the first time in history, hold him in contempt and turn it over to the Justice Department to see what they could do to the President.

Then, of course, comes the tax cut for 98 percent of the American people. I never heard in political science 101 how you tell 98 percent of the American people that they are going to be held hostage for a tax cut or a continuation of the tax cut that they had.

But I think, when it gets to health care, you don't have to be religious to understand that you are talking about a right to live, a life to improve the quality of your life, a life to give children, not necessarily your children, but any child, a better way of life, and the ability to be able to say that even if you had a precondition, you are entitled to health care.

And when someone comes up with this grand idea, the whole thing that it

is the person who thought about it that decides whether you are going to either support it, repair it, make it better, perfect it, but to repeal it, and to leave nothing out there except that, trust us, we're going to replace it, it is so unfair to the American people, who could only dream that one day health care would be something that as an American, and as a human being, they would be entitled to.

□ 1630

The things that are happening now by the majority party in this House are very contagious because a lot of young Democrats think this is the way to govern. A lot of Democrats are coming here thinking that the more mean you get, the more successful. It's bad for this Congress and it's bad for our great country.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Select Revenue Subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

Mr. TIBERI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The President said throughout the debate of health care and since, if you like what you have, you can keep it. Employers have told us that's simply not true. The President said, throughout the debate and since on the health care bill, the mandate is not a tax. A couple of weeks ago, the Supreme Court disagreed and said the mandate was a tax.

Today, in this Capitol, there was an executive with White Castle, a company headquartered in my hometown of Columbus, Ohio, a family-owned, family-run business with almost 10,000 employees, which has been providing health insurance to their full-time employees since 1924. And he testified today that the bill is a tax and that it will impact their ability to provide health care to their employees. Their health care may be too generous, and they'll be taxed. Their health care may not be generous enough, and they will be taxed. Furthermore, he testified that White Castle will not expand. They've put on hold expansion of 400 to 500 jobs that would be created with their expansion beyond the 12 States they're in.

One day I got a call from another employer, in my district, with 48 individuals. He had just come from his tax preparer, who told him not to expand his business—not to expand his business. He provides health care to his employees. But he was told not to go over 50 because he'd have to comply with the Federal Government and the Federal bureaucracy, new rules, new taxes, and new regulations. "And we're supposed to grow our economy," he said to me, "Pat. We're supposed to grow our economy, the private sector?"

Ladies and gentleman, CBO estimated that this bill will cost 800,000 jobs by 2021. This is not a commonsense bill that became law. Let's repeal the bill and replace it with provisions that will expand access and affordability.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member from Washington, a member of our committee, Mr. McDERMOTT.

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I love this cartoon. According to the Republicans, we're out here raising the biggest tax on people ever. Now, in this cartoon, you'll see the woman got into her car. She didn't put her seatbelt on. It was a choice, right? She's now being fined. But she says, "No, it's the biggest tax increase in history."

That's what's going on here today. It is a joke. With the individual mandate, everybody gets a choice whether you're going to put your health care safety belt on or not, the principle of personal responsibility: If you can buy health insurance and can afford it, you have to buy it or pay a penalty; now, otherwise, you're passing the cost on to us. You're a freeloader. The Republicans are glorifying freeloaders, people who say they don't want to pay if they can.

Now, the Speaker said, Don't spike the football if we win in the Supreme Court. What you should have said was, Don't kick the watercooler. What's going on on the floor today is another pointless, time-wasting exercise. It's the 31st time the Republicans have tried to repeal the bill. Now, as a psychiatrist, I'm qualified to say this: One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

The game is over. The referee, John Roberts, blew the whistle. It's over, guys. Why don't we have the Speaker call us when we're ready to get down here and talk about real things like jobs and the economy and stop giving people the idea that they're going to be scared to death. Less than 1 percent of Americans will choose to be irresponsible and not buy health insurance if they can.

Vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. BOUSTANY.

Mr. BOUSTANY. As a physician with over 30 years clinical experience taking care of patients as a cardiac surgeon, I'm certainly familiar with the problems in our health care system, and there's no denying we need to do substantive reforms. But, Mr. Speaker, this law has not created the kind of reforms that are needed for our health care system.

Let's talk about seniors for a moment. This law cuts over \$500 billion out of the Medicare program. It's going to hurt seniors. I know this from my own personal experience having dealt with seniors and seniors' health care. We have not fixed the mismatch between cost and reimbursement. This is leading to accelerating access problems for seniors and others to good, high-quality health care and a good doctor-patient relationship. It's going to force

seniors to travel further, to wait longer, depriving them of regular access to a physician that they know and trust.

We haven't solved the problem of portability. Portability is something Americans cared about—owning your own health insurance and carrying it wherever you go. We have ways of dealing with that. That has not been solved with this law.

Taxes, nearly \$800 billion now in new taxes, and the total keeps growing. Twenty-one new taxes on every aspect of the American economy. It's no wonder this economy is in the doldrums. It's no wonder we have 41 quarters of unemployment exceeding 8 percent. This is unacceptable. Another 800,000 jobs at risk, as my colleagues mentioned earlier. Plus, CBO reports that the health insurance tax, something that hasn't been talked about much on small businesses, will be passed through to consumers in the form of higher premiums for private coverage.

Experts also warn that the law will cause massive disruptions in how medicine is practiced. It will accelerate the demise of the independent practice of medicine, which is a threat to the doctor-patient relationship, creating all kinds of conflicts of interest, from a bureaucratic board telling physicians what to do to all these other bureaucratic entities between the doctor and patient.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BOUSTANY. This one-size-fits-all approach is a disaster. That's why we must repeal this bill in the name of quality, in the name of cost, and in name of getting this economy back on track.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 10 seconds.

The gentleman from Louisiana voted for the \$500 billion in Medicare savings twice. You come here and criticize, I guess, yourself.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, a distinguished member of our committee, Mr. LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we've been down this road before. We've been here 31 times before voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We're wasting time. The American people are suffering. They have lost their jobs, their homes, and more than 50 million uninsured are worried about whether they're one illness away from disaster.

The Affordable Care Act was a historic and necessary step to cover all Americans, and all the Republicans can say is, Repeal. These are the same forces that fought against Medicare and Social Security.

People get it. If it were not for Medicare, where would our seniors be? Where would they turn?

□ 1640

Health care is a right, and it is not a privilege; not just for some people, but

for all people. We cannot and we will not go back.

Do you want to go back? Do you want people to be afraid to have a checkup? Do you want the only doctors people see to be in an emergency room?

The Affordable Care Act is moving us away from this tragedy and toward insurance coverage for all Americans. We have come too far and suffered too long to go back. Too much progress has been made with the Affordable Care Act to go back. The American people will not be fooled this time.

Vote "no" on repeal, and get to work putting the American people back to work.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK).

Mrs. BLACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I'm incredibly disappointed by the Supreme Court's ruling to uphold the President's health care law, but one thing the Supreme Court's decision does not change is the need for ObamaCare to be repealed immediately. The fact is that President Obama's signature legislative achievement, ObamaCare, is a tax hike on the middle-income class.

Since I took office in 2010, I've been fighting every day to repeal ObamaCare, and I will not rest until this goal is achieved. As a small businesswoman and a nurse for over 40 years, I know that ObamaCare is not only the wrong medicine for our health care system, it's also a disaster for our economy.

ObamaCare's new regulations, taxes, and mandates are crushing our already weak economy. Now three-quarters of small businesses say that the law is preventing them from hiring people, and that has left millions of middle class Americans jobless and without a way to provide for their family.

I look forward to voting tomorrow, once again, to fully repeal ObamaCare, and I hope this time that the Senate gets the message loud and clear. It's long past time for the Senate to follow the House's lead and strike down this disastrous law.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

In Tennessee, as of December 2011, 59,000 young adults in Tennessee gained insurance coverage because of ACA, and almost 800,000 with Medicare received free preventive services—almost 800,000.

I now yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished colleague of mine from Massachusetts, a member of our committee, Mr. NEAL.

Mr. NEAL. Thank you, Mr. LEVIN.

I hope as this debate ensues what we can perhaps call this for the next hour, instead of ObamaCare, why don't we call it RomneyCare? This is based upon the Massachusetts model that Governor Romney signed with Ted Kennedy standing next to him. Anybody

who knows anything about insurance markets, you know the following: you can't say, as our Republican friends are saying, by the way, in print and in televised appearances, they're all saying: Oh, I like the idea of ending pre-existing condition; oh, I like the idea of keeping 26-year-olds on their parents' health insurance; oh, I very much like the idea of ending lifetime caps; oh, I very much like the idea of preventive service mammography screening and osteoporosis for women.

Well, that's what's in the legislation that we passed. Those numbers poll very well with the American people. And, by the way, the trend line continues in this direction. But if you know something about automobile insurance, it's not just on Friday night you're driving along knowing you have insurance that you need to be concerned about. It's the man or woman driving the other way toward you that you hope has automobile insurance as well.

The Massachusetts plan polls very well. Not everybody in Massachusetts, contrary to what some might think, is a Democrat. Almost 64 percent of the people in Massachusetts are Republicans and Independents. Seventy percent north approve of the health care plan that was duly negotiated with hospitals, the business community, organized labor. Everybody had a seat at the table.

Remember this as we proceed to this vote tomorrow: This is the offering that Bob Dole suggested to Bill Clinton. This is the offering that Senator Chafee from Rhode Island offered to Bill Clinton. The mandate was a Republican proposal that came from the Heritage Foundation, and it's the only bone of contention in this legislation.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act.

Though the Supreme Court's decision is disappointing, it does not change the underlying truths of the President's health care law. The law has neither reduced costs nor improved choices available to Americans. It outsources Medicare decisions to an unelected rationing board, interferes with the doctor-patient relationship, and threatens consumers with fewer options and higher premiums.

The health care law is paid for with more than \$800 billion in new taxes and another \$500 billion or more in Medicare cuts. All told, we are left with 21 tax increases, including the individual mandate, which, for the first time in our country, imposes a Federal tax for inaction.

Imagine what a future Congress could tax you on for not doing: not eating fruits and vegetables, not buying an electric car, not exercising daily to

their standards—just to name a few. The possibilities of Congress' taxing power are now seemingly endless and frightening.

On top of that, the Internal Revenue Service is now the official enforcement cop for the health care law, a powerful role requiring the hiring of thousands of new IRS employees at an expense of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The takeaway? Young or old, the health care law does little to ensure affordable coverage for all Americans. We will not feel the full brunt of its impact until 2014, but the law has already proven to be a nightmare.

We can't mistake the Supreme Court's ruling for an evaluation of good policy. At the end of Chief Justice John Roberts' majority opinion is an important message. He writes:

The Court does not express any opinion on the wisdom of the Affordable Care Act. Under the Constitution, the judgment is reserved to the people.

And judged they have. This law is a disaster for patients, small businesses, and future generations of Americans. We must repeal it and redouble our efforts to start anew on real process reforms that will increase patient access and quality of care while reducing costs.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 20 seconds. While there is a reference to disaster in Kentucky, here are the facts:

48,000 young adults in Kentucky gained insurance coverage;

Since ACA was enacted, Kentucky residents with Medicare have saved a total of \$68 million;

538,000 people with Medicare in Kentucky received free preventative services.

That isn't a disaster; that's progress.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, our distinguished colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. THOMPSON.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation that represents the 31st time that we have voted or will vote to repeal parts or all of the Affordable Care Act. Instead of staging these political games, we should be spending our time strengthening the reforms that were made in the Affordable Care Act and working together to put people back to work.

The Affordable Care Act was passed in response to a national crisis: businesses and individuals could not afford to buy health insurance. Hospitals, doctors, and clinics provided more than \$100 billion a year in uncompensated care—\$50 million in my district alone.

Now, the good fairy doesn't come and reimburse them for this care. These costs are passed on to all of us who have health insurance in higher taxes and higher premiums, to the tune of \$1,000 a year in higher health insurance premiums.

People with preexisting conditions could not get coverage. People in my district were hitting their lifetime caps

or even annual caps and being dropped by their insurance company.

□ 1650

Others were self-employed and simply couldn't afford to buy private insurance on the open market. This was the national crisis that we worked to try and fix, and this is the national crisis that the majority party would like to go back to. It's not right. It's not good for America, and it's not good for Americans.

So on behalf of the millions of Americans who are already benefiting from the Affordable Care Act, I urge a "no" vote on this legislation.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK).

Mr. SCHOCK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise and offer a few facts. You know, there's been a lot of opinion going around here today, and we're all entitled to our own opinion, but we're not entitled to our own facts.

President Obama famously said: "If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan, period." The Congressional Budget Office released the fact that 20 million people are expected to lose their health insurance coverage if this law stands—20 million Americans who currently have health insurance will lose it under this plan: Fact. Why? Because of bad provisions in the bill.

Seventy-one out of the Fortune 100 companies will save \$422 billion by eliminating their employer-provided coverage and opt instead to pay the \$2,000 per-employee penalty instead. It incentivizes bad behavior, precisely the opposite of the stated goal.

Another claim the President repeated was: "Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of any tax increase." Yet the only reason ObamaCare was found constitutional, the primary reason that Chief Justice Roberts—joining with Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan, along with Sonia Sotomayor—upheld the individual mandate is under Congress' taxing authority. The truth is 76 percent of those paying this new individual mandate tax in 2016 will in fact be individuals who make only \$59,000, or a family of four who makes \$120,000—far below the threshold, the promise, and the guarantee of President Obama's \$250,000.

Finally, my friends on the other side of the aisle claimed health care spending would rise by a mere bargain of only \$938 billion—there was much to do, I remember, about then Speaker announcing it was below \$1 trillion—yet the Congressional Budget Office has updated their number to cost \$1.8 trillion just this next decade. For those reasons and more, we need to repeal this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 30 seconds.

There was a reference by the gentleman from Illinois about facts. Let me mention the facts.

As of December 2011, 125,000 young adults in Illinois gained insurance coverage. Since it was enacted, ACA, Illinois residents with Medicare have saved a total of \$155 million on their prescription drugs and 1,350,000 people with Medicare in Illinois have received free preventive services. Those are the facts about health care reform.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another very distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this bill, and I appreciate him framing the difference that the legislation makes.

That's why, in a sense, I welcome the 31st running of this soap opera here on the floor of the House, where our Republican colleagues have attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. It would have a little more credibility if they actually had a meaningful alternative that would take the place, that would do the things that this legislation is in the process of doing.

Bear in mind that this legislation, over the course of the next 20 years, is going to reduce overall government spending by over \$1 trillion. It reforms Medicare, not by slashing benefits to senior citizens, but by changing the priorities and the overpayment for Medicare Advantage, which does shift, as my colleagues say, a half-trillion dollars, but it uses it to reform Medicare and pay for medical benefits for the American public.

What my friends on the other side of the aisle don't say is that they take the half trillion dollars, but they don't invest it in strengthening Medicare, they use it in their budget—the same \$500 billion—to finance tax cuts for Americans who need them the least. The wealthiest, most well off Americans use this \$500 billion for additional tax cuts.

What we have done is to move forward, and it has nothing to do with broccoli, because if you don't happen to like broccoli, you don't have to eat it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. What's different is that, under this system, no one can force the rest of us to buy their broccoli.

Unfortunately, the American health care system now is forcing many of us to pay for the uninsured—60 percent of whom go to an emergency room or a doctor's office every year. That's why Governor Romney had a mandate, or a tax—or whatever you call it—to be able to move this forward. That's what the legislation is modeled on. It's making a difference already for Americans in terms of young people on their parents' coverage, small businesses, more than one-third of a million who have been

able to have tax credits to extend health care, and there's more along the way.

The more we debate this, the more the American public understands the benefits of the legislation, and the more the support grows.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. I thank the chairman for yielding 2 minutes to me to address this important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand strong for repeal of ObamaCare. I think at this point in time it is only right and just that we be open and honest with the hardworking taxpayers of America. That is why it is important that we have this vote on the floor tomorrow so that the American people, with the backdrop of the United States Supreme Court decision clearly articulating what ObamaCare is—it is clear, it is a government expansion of 130-plus agencies. It's a significant tax increase, with 20-plus tax increases that are now clearly delineated and described by the Supreme Court as such.

So when we vote tomorrow, we vote on a clear record. And I gladly came here to Washington, D.C., to stand up to downsize the Federal Government, to cut taxes, not increase them.

Also, as we stand in regards to this repeal, we must be cognizant of the fact that, under ObamaCare, Medicare is cut \$500 billion. There can be no mistake about it. Let us be clear with the American people, as we go through this upcoming debate that will be ultimately decided in November, that we need to protect Medicare, preserve it, reform it, not cut it like this bill does.

So when the votes are cast tomorrow, I think ultimately the record will be clear where each and every one of us stands. I stand—and I hope all my colleagues stand with me—to repeal this legislation, which increases taxes, expands government, threatens the job creators of today and tomorrow with a burden that scares them from making the hiring decisions that are going to put people back to work today, which is the number one issue that we face in America and that we are here in Washington standing firm to stand for.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman from New York voted on the \$500 billion Medicare provision twice, voted for it.

As of 2011, 160,000 young adults in New York gained insurance coverage because of health care reform. Since it was enacted, New Yorkers with Medicare have saved a total of \$270 million on their prescription drugs. In 2011, 2 million people with Medicare in New York received free preventive services. Since 2010, over 3 million New Yorkers with private health insurance gained preventive insurance.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is there remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has

7½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 13½ minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the distinguished chairman of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is a big State. We have a lot of poor families. And as a border State, we have a lot of people here who are not legal. As a result, we struggle to provide health care across our State. ObamaCare will make it worse, will make it harder to help families.

This chart lays out the new health care law that affects every one of you in America. This is the result of that 2,801-page bill and the Supreme Court ruling. What that Supreme Court left in place was 159 new Federal agencies and bureaucracies in between you and your doctor. What they left in place was 21 new tax increases, a dozen of which hit middle class families like yourself right in the pocketbook.

What it left in place is half a trillion dollars of cuts to our local hospitals, our home health care agencies, our nursing homes, even hospice care when people are dying. They left in place those cuts.

And today you'll hear, when I finish, the ranking member will tell you all this sugar and spice about ObamaCare in Texas. What he won't tell you is how many seniors will be forced off Medicare Advantage, their plan, because of ObamaCare. They won't tell you how few doctors will even see our seniors anymore in Texas.

What he won't tell you is how many small businesses and medium-sized businesses are going to drop their health care plans and move their workers into the subsidized exchanges because of ObamaCare. You won't hear that when I finish talking.

The truth of the matter is if ObamaCare is so great for families, why are your health care costs still going up?

If it is so great for small businesses, why did they sue to stop it?

And if it is so great for seniors, how come they can't find doctors to see them anymore?

Health care is too important to get wrong, and ObamaCare got it wrong. It's time to repeal it, start with a fresh slate, and help the families who need it most.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 30 seconds.

Twenty-five percent of the people of Texas go to sleep every night without insurance—25 percent. And people come here defending the status quo?

As of December 2011, 357,000 young adults in Texas gained insurance coverage. Since it was enacted, Texans with Medicare have saved a total of over \$220 million on prescription drugs, and over 2 million people with Medicare in Texas have received free preventive services. That's progress, in

contrast to the status quo, 25 percent uninsured.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill today to repeal the health care law.

In speaking with employers in the Third District of Nebraska, it's been very interesting to hear their perspective, certainly, when they tell me that they are holding off on hiring because they simply do not know how much a new employee will cost due to these government mandates. In fact, they're paying overtime to very willing employees because the employees currently are so concerned about the economy they're certainly eager to work that overtime so they can achieve some financial security. And so we've got an imbalance here in the employment sector, and we need to fix that.

I'm also concerned that the very bureaucratic approach, for example, with the small business tax credit, when I hear from an accountant who tells me it takes longer to calculate the tax credit than it does for the remainder of the small business's tax return.

We can do better. We owe the American people better and certainly we need to repeal this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, by any reasonable measure, America has the best health care system in the world. Certainly the many world leaders who come here for treatment are a testament to that very fact.

However, over recent decades, a slow but steady government takeover of health care by growing entitlements has crowded out the private marketplace, creating an inefficient system whose costs are now completely out of control.

As a family physician who was elected to Congress in 2008, I came here to bring consumer choices, transparency, and efficiency back into our health care system, putting health care decisions back into the exam room where they belong.

Instead, Democrats passed ObamaCare without even one Republican vote. It essentially doubles down on the cost, inefficiencies, and lack of accessibility to good health care that already existed, and puts Washington fully in control of your health care decisions that will ultimately lead to yet another large, unaffordable entitlement system.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, if you would tell the two of us from Michigan how much time there is on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman

from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. So why don't I reserve one more time, and then I'll go forward.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I appreciate my fellow friend from Michigan yielding this time.

I'm a freshman. This is my first term in session here in Congress. And I wasn't here for the passage of this bill. But I can tell you, I am here because the American people wanted changed. They did not and will not accept what was passed by this previous Congress.

You're going to hear a lot today about how it has helped people. We cannot go back to the status quo. But this is not the solution. This is not the way. And that's why I rise today in strong support of the repeal of the ObamaCare Act, H.R. 6079.

The fact is, the recent Chamber of Commerce survey indicated that a whopping 74 percent of small businesses say that the law makes it more difficult for them to hire new employees. I'm one of those small business owners who's been paralyzed trying to figure out what my insurance costs are going to be for my employees.

In addition, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts ObamaCare will reduce the Nation's labor supply by 800,000 people, not something that we need right now.

This law is full of compliance uncertainties and disincentives for growth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. The Supreme Court recently made it clear that the individual mandate is, despite what the President and my colleagues in this body are trying to say, it is a colossal tax increase on the middle class.

While I'm disappointed in the decision, we know that the American people want us to come back in and change this law because it will not help them in the long run.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Michigan for yielding me this time and for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, just to address the previous speaker's comments, if you're a small business in America with 50 or fewer employees, you don't have to do a god-dang thing under the Affordable Care Act other than receive tax credits for offering health care coverage to your employees. So let's stop this nonsense of trying to scare small businesses throughout America.

It's been pointed out on the floor by numerous colleagues that this is the

31st attempt in this session of Congress to repeal all or part of the Affordable Care Act. Even The Washington Post pointed out earlier this week that Baskin Robbins only offers 30 flavors of ice cream. Enough is enough.

And when I first heard that the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, my first feelings were relief and happiness, not for me or anyone else who was involved in advancing the cause of health care reform, which was desperately needed—it is a system that has failed too many Americans for too long—but it was happiness for a 1-year-old little boy who I had a chance of meeting back home in western Wisconsin by the name of Henry.

See, Henry's mother informed me that before he was even born he suffered a seizure in her womb and, therefore, the very first breath he took in his life, they were informed that he was uninsurable because he had a pre-existing condition. And that family was depleting their entire life savings making sure that Henry was getting the health care treatment that he needed to survive in his life.

We're better than that as a Nation, folks. The Affordable Care Act, as this family pointed out, changed that immediately for Henry and that family, and for 39,000 other children throughout western Wisconsin who have a pre-existing condition.

□ 1710

Forty-five thousand young adults in Wisconsin now can stay on their parents' plans because of this act. Seniors on Medicare get a 50 percent price discount for the prescription drugs they need in their lives.

Do you want to talk about a big tax increase?

Take away the 35 percent in tax credits that small businesses are getting today for providing health care coverage, which goes up to 50 percent in 2014, or the \$800 billion in tax credits that individuals and families will receive under the exchange so they can afford health care coverage. Let's talk a little bit about that tax increase that people are going to be facing if they are successful in repealing this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KIND. What we need is more cooperation and more effort in reforming a health care system that is complicated, that is too expensive. We have tools in place now in this legislation that will not only enable reforming the way health care is delivered, which is more integrated, coordinated and patient-centered, but in how we pay for it so that it is based on the value, or the quality of care that is given, and no longer on the volume of services that is rendered, oftentimes with poor results.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this. Let's work together to improve a health care system that is in desperate need of improvement.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE).

Mr. QUAYLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, the Supreme Court voted to uphold ObamaCare. This decision confirms that the repeal of ObamaCare must take place in the very body in which it began. This decision reminds us that there is no greater calling, no higher honor than the defense of our constituents from the tyranny of government overreach.

We have seen what socialized medicine and endless entitlements have done to Europe. Well, let me be very clear: ObamaCare is no more than a Trojan horse inserted in the global epicenter of freedom. It is bad for our doctors. It is bad for our patients. It is bad for our economy. It is toxic to our middle class. From its insidious taxes to its strangling regulation to the oppressive mandate that lies at its core, ObamaCare is bad for America.

This bill gives us all a chance to vote to defend the values upon which our great Nation was founded. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to repeal ObamaCare.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE).

Mr. NUNNELEE. I want to thank the chairman for yielding.

Everything they told us when they passed this law has turned out not to be true: if you like your own health plan, you can keep it. This isn't a tax hike. Prices will go down \$2,500 a year. It won't affect religious freedom. The list goes on.

I was disappointed in the Supreme Court's ruling, but I did note that the Supreme Court said it was not its job to say whether this is a good or a bad law. Well, the American people can answer that question.

ObamaCare is bad for health care. ObamaCare is bad for seniors. ObamaCare is bad for hardworking Americans. ObamaCare is bad for job creators. ObamaCare is bad for freedom. That's why it must be repealed.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support freedom and prosperity.

ObamaCare—call it a tax or a mandate—is a threat to personal liberty. My constituents in Colorado want to work directly with their doctors with regard to their health care without going through a Federal bureaucrat.

ObamaCare burdens small businesses and families by imposing more than \$800 billion in new taxes that will make it impossible for them to grow and thrive. The independent Congressional Budget Office estimates that employ-

ers will create 800,000 fewer jobs by 2021 as a result of ObamaCare. In fact, we are already seeing how this is hurting jobs today. The National Retail Federation found that 48 percent of businessowners cite the potential cost of health care as a reason they are not hiring additional workers.

We can fix what is wrong with health care through patient-centered reforms that are targeted and affordable, but first we must protect our freedoms and the economy by repealing ObamaCare.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of the Repeal of ObamaCare Act, which will fully and immediately repeal the Affordable Care Act.

ObamaCare is not merely a government takeover of health care; but as many of us insisted during debates on this floor 2 years ago, ObamaCare is a massive tax increase on everyday Americans and small business owners, and it must be repealed. Every day in Indiana, I hear people tell me that ObamaCare is stifling our recovery. If it's not repealed in full, Hoosiers will face higher health care costs and increased taxes. The medical device tax alone can cost Indiana more than 2,000 jobs.

Yet the issue before us today is not just about economic growth; it's about freedom. ObamaCare erodes the freedom of every American, opening the door for the Federal Government to legislate, regulate, and mandate nearly every aspect of our daily lives under the guise of its taxing power. Left unchanged, ObamaCare will change this country forever.

I truly believe in my heart this law will not stand, for in the end, the fate of our freedoms rests not in the hands of a President, a Congress or a court, for we are and have always been and shall ever remain a government of the people and by the people and for the people. While this Congress this week will vote to repeal this bill, I believe the American people will have their say on a day this fall and that some Congress someday will repeal this legislation and build us a health care system that will focus on lowering the costs of health insurance without growing the size of government.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask my colleague, how many speakers do you have left?

Mr. CAMP. I believe three or four.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. How much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has ¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman

from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND).

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding the time.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 6079, to repeal the President's health care law.

H.R. 6079 will end the individual mandate, the tax hikes on the small businesses—of which my family has been proud owners for many, many generations—the devastating cuts to Medicare, and the government intrusion into Americans' private health care decisions.

While I am disappointed with the Supreme Court and with the decision that it made by not striking down the President's health care bill, I remain committed to its full repeal. Under the health care law, over 1 million Americans will be at risk of losing their own current health care plans. The average American family will see a \$1,200 increase in its health care premiums. Many of those families I know in our family community are going to be devastatingly impacted.

As I have said time and time again, bad procedure leads to bad policy, and 2 years ago—my goodness—on full display, we saw bad procedure. That's why I stand here ready to cast my 10th vote in favor of repealing the President's health care law.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished member of our committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding this time.

I listened to my friend from Indiana a moment ago quote President Lincoln. I would like to think that if President Lincoln were President today he would have supported this legislation, the Affordable Care Act, and that maybe we would call this LincolnCare today. I would say myself that I would call it President LincolnCare as I call it today President ObamaCare.

□ 1720

I notice my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are very much on target in terms of their talking points today. Each and every one has repeatedly called it ObamaCare, a pejorative, bringing down not only the legislation we're talking about, but diminishing the office of the President of the United States. I remind them that we have many people listening to the debate today, including young people. We should be beholden to the office of the presidency. That's why I call it President ObamaCare.

But this morning, the Speaker of the House, when asked why we're wasting time and energy on another repeal vote said: "We are resolved to get rid of a law that will ruin the best health care delivery system the world has ever seen."

Resolved to get rid of the best health care system the world has ever seen? That is what we had before the Affordable Care Act? I think my constituents—and I would daresay some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—would disagree with that.

Do you want to go back to a time when insurance companies could deny coverage for arbitrary reasons that put bottom lines ahead of patients' needs, back to a time when families worried about how they were going to afford coverage and lived with the fear that a single medical emergency could send them into bankruptcy, back to a time when seniors were overwhelmed by prescription drug costs with no relief in sight? No. Americans don't want to go back to that time. In fact, when we passed the Affordable Care Act, President Obama and Democrats in Congress were resolved. We were resolved to actually improve our health care system.

We knew that the status quo was not working for far too many Americans. We were resolved to ensure that everyone had access to affordable health care coverage. We were resolved to guarantee that that coverage would work better for patients and for families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CROWLEY. I'm not sure why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't share our resolve to make life for our constituents better today than it was prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act. I don't understand the resolve to preserve what was an inadequate status quo by voting tomorrow to take a giant step backwards.

My colleagues, our friends on the other side, have no vision. That's why we're here today talking about going back to the future.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished Member from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the common ground that we have is seeking affordability and accessibility. ObamaCare fails on both counts.

We've heard comments from our colleagues saying more is yet to come. That's exactly what the American people—workers, senior citizens, American families—are worried about: more to come.

We cannot find doctors. We're seeing our costs increase. We hear the comments that are coming. It is the Affordable Care Act. The problem is, there's nothing affordable about it. It is a \$2 trillion tax increase on the backs of struggling Americans. If we're going to stand up for true health care, we need to make sure that we repeal this bill, repeal it now, and replace it with common sense.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6079.

The court said Congress can impose new taxes, and the individual mandate is constitutional as a tax. As Dr. Seuss would rhyme: If it walks like a tax, talks like a tax, and quacks like a tax, the Supreme Court will tell us surely it is a tax. And so it did.

Maybe we can serve it with green eggs and ham.

Uncle Sam, I still don't think Americans will like this ObamaCare sham.

Uncle Sam, loyal to patient-centered choice I am.

As the ledgers on exploding costs are already showing us and the courts declared that day, a tax burden is what ObamaCare is, and Americans remain dismayed.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As I stand here, I want to remember others from the State of Michigan who years and years ago argued this issue. I think I'll go back to JOHN DINGELL's father, who was from Michigan, a Member of this distinguished body, and who started this effort with others to bring health insurance to every person in this country.

After seven decades of failure, we succeeded. Yet the Republicans want to repeal it without offering anything to replace it. So I'll quote again Governor Mitt Romney. He said:

A conservative approach is one that relies on individual responsibility. But in my view, and others are free to disagree, expecting people who can afford to buy insurance to do so is consistent with personal responsibility, and that's a cornerstone of conservatism.

It's really a cornerstone also of America as a community. To repeal this is to undermine the sense and reality of community in the United States of America. Remembering the past and looking to the future, we must vote "no" on repeal.

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this law is overwhelmingly unpopular, and the reason it is is because it is fundamentally flawed. The flaw is that government is being placed at the center of health care decisions that should be made by doctors and families together, not by the government.

Look at the other measures that we can use to examine this law. The pricetag of the law has already doubled. It's over \$1.8 trillion now. Health care premiums are going up. They're not going down as result of this law. They're going in the other direction. And Americans are losing the insurance they have. And there is a perverse incentive in this bill for employers to drop coverage because it's cheaper for them to pay the tax in the bill.

Also, taxes are being raised in general over a half a trillion dollars in this legislation, and 12 of the 21 new taxes in this law hit the middle class. It will make costs expensive for more than 90

percent of the seniors, and it's paid for with budget gimmicks that even the government actuaries say aren't going to work.

The Congressional Budget Office has said this law makes job creation harder. What we really need is to have a stronger economy that will help create jobs, but this law makes it harder, according to the CBO. We can't afford that after 41 months of unemployment above 8 percent. This law is bad for workers, bad for families, bad for patients, doctors, and employers.

I urge that we repeal this law, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on June 28 the U.S. Supreme Court dealt a devastating blow to the American people. In a sharply divided opinion, the Court upheld the President's decision to tax individuals who don't purchase government-approved health insurance. If Washington can dictate that private citizens must buy health insurance and impose higher taxes when they fail to do so, it is difficult to conceive of any limit on Federal power.

While I disagree with the Court's ruling, that is not the focus of our debate today. We are here instead to overturn a flawed and failed law. The government takeover of health care is destroying jobs. It is raising health care costs. It is the wrong prescription for an ailing economy. It must be repealed. We promised the American people no less, and we owe it to them to keep our promise.

The need for repeal has grown more urgent in light of Friday's disappointing jobs report, which marked the 41st consecutive month of unemployment greater than 8 percent. A close examination of the health care law explains how it's contributing to the jobs crisis facing this Nation. Hundreds of additional boards and bureaucracies, thousands of pages of complex regulations, billions of dollars in tax hikes, and trillions of dollars in new government spending, these are the burdens the health care law has piled on the backs of working families and job creators.

For more than 2 years, the law has crippled our economy and undermined employers' ability to grow their businesses and hire new workers. This is not just my opinion. We see evidence from job creators across the country.

Gail Johnson, an employer from Virginia, said the law will "ultimately slow or stall the growth of small and midsized businesses as we struggle with the costly new requirements."

Speaking of the law's draconian tax on medical devices, Denis Johnson, vice president of a medical device manufacturing facility in Indiana, said it will "undoubtedly force us to cut critical R&D funding and inhibit job creation and retention."

And Will Knetch, president of a family-owned manufacturing company in Pennsylvania, testified that “the sheer monstrous size of the law intimidates most Americans and provides so many unknowns for the business community, it is scary.”

Without any doubt, Mr. Speaker, Americans are concerned about getting this economy moving and putting people back to work. As these and other employers have accurately described, one of the greatest obstacles standing in the way of economic growth and prosperity is the President’s health care law.

Through his government takeover of health care, the President has created a destructive roadblock to lowering health care costs and private sector job creation, and he has disrupted the careful balance of power between the people and their government.

Whether at congressional hearings, in public forums, or at the ballot box, the American people have spoken. They want their elected leaders to repeal ObamaCare so we can pave the way to private sector job growth and lower health care costs.

I urge my colleagues to stop defending a broken law and start standing by the American people. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 6079, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Our side is going to try to bring some facts to the debate. My friend from Minnesota, the chairman of the committee, said this is a job-destroying health care bill. Since the day the President signed the bill, American companies have created 4.3 million private sector jobs.

At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, who clearly understands the need for high-quality health care for all people in our country, Mr. HINOJOSA.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation that would take away health insurance for over 30 million Americans, force seniors to pay more for their prescription drugs, and add billions to our deficit.

In my great State of Texas, we have the highest uninsured rate in the country, a disgraceful 25 percent. One of those uninsured was a little boy named Houston Tracy from Crowley, Texas. Houston was born with a heart defect just days before the passage of the Affordable Care Act and was deemed uninsurable from birth for a preexisting condition. His case drew national attention, and eventually his private insurance company backed down under pressure. Today, under the Affordable Care Act, no child will suffer the indignity baby Houston met. Insurers can’t deny children the coverage over a medical need. These are the protections that Republicans want to take away from us today.

Just yesterday, a Republican Member of Congress said that if she had her

way, she would rather spend every day voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act. So rather than working to pass legislation to put Americans back to work or stop the outsourcing and offshoring of American jobs, Republicans would rather spend every day doing nothing but scoring political points by voting to take away health insurance for the millions of Americans while offering no solution for people like little Houston Tracy and the thousands of other children like him who would be left at the mercy of the insurance companies.

This is a cruel bill. I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the Republican bill.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, my friends across the aisle decry the fact that we have now voted over 30 times to defund, dismantle, and repeal the law. But, Mr. Speaker, isn’t it right to challenge a tool of destruction of the American health care system, the economy, and personal freedom of choice?

In Michigan the law has stifled economic growth and hiring and raised health care costs for everyone.

It would impose 21 new or higher taxes, 12 of which directly affect the middle class, workers and families. It would lead to a gross tax increase of almost \$570 billion over 10 years. It will cost \$1.8 trillion over the next 10 years, nearly double the original estimate.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration has failed to decide what government-approved health insurance will look like, leaving employers uncertain about the future expenses and taxes they will face. White Castle, in a hearing just prior to this, has indicated they have held back on creating 400-plus new jobs because of this uncertainty.

As if the cost of jobs and the economy wasn’t enough of a negative, ObamaCare also cuts \$500 billion from Medicare to finance new entitlement programs. It reduces Medicare care itself. According to the American Medical Association, one in three primary care doctors already limit the number of new Medicare patients they take due to the cost. Once the law is fully enacted, CMS estimates that about 15 percent of Medicare part A providers will become unprofitable and drop out entirely, leaving seniors with fewer options.

Additionally, the President’s hand-picked 15-member Independent Payment Advisory Board is even more troubling. Its purpose is to control future Medicare spending so that if Medicare grows beyond what is sustainable, the Board has the power to recommend cuts and ration care.

Rights of conscience violations are mandated in this bill. This must stop.

I recommend all my colleagues support the repeal of this bill in going back to a patient-centered approach that offers this health care system sustainability and care for our citizens.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I would ask my friend from Michigan if he could just stay for a question.

My friend from Michigan just said that there is an estimate that the bill has doubled in cost, and I have read all the CBO analyses of this bill. I wonder if the gentleman could tell me the source of his statement from the Congressional Budget Office that the bill has doubled in cost from the original estimate.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. WALBERG. I appreciate you yielding.

It is the CBO. Go to the Congressional Budget Office. They have directly stated that it would double.

Mr. ANDREWS. Reclaiming my time, if the gentleman could supplement the record with the date and the document that says that, I would appreciate it.

At this time I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a gentleman who has become an expert on the budget, who understands that this repeal bill increases the national deficit and debt, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago we passed ObamaCare, and now the Supreme Court has ruled that it is, in fact, constitutional.

Even after this ruling, some are ignoring the fact that these reforms are working. We know that there are children with preexisting conditions who now have insurance. We know that there are young adults who have had car accidents and their families did not have to go bankrupt for health care costs because they were able to stay on their parents’ policies.

□ 1740

We know that there are seniors who are receiving assistance when they fall in the doughnut hole. We know many people have discovered curable diseases when those diseases were in fact curable because they didn’t have to save up for copays and deductibles for their annual checkup. We know that there are people with serious illnesses who no longer fear being kicked off their insurance plans in the middle of treatment when they need the coverage the most. And in 18 months, all Americans will be able to afford a comprehensive health care policy. All of this was done in a fiscally responsible way. And why would anyone want to take away these protections and leave people without health security?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this 31st attempt to turn the clock back on the advancements made under the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. KLINE. I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for repeal of the Affordable Care Act. As a physician, I've taken care of families for more than 30 years. During my time on the front lines, I watched our health care costs skyrocket and our health care freedom erode. I observed three major problems with the health care system. One, it costs too much. It's unaffordable for too many people. Two, there were people who didn't have access to care. And three, there's a liability crisis in this country.

The problem is too much government, so more government is not the solution. Unfortunately, the President and his party did not learn the lessons of Tennessee. In Tennessee, it began with universal coverage in the nineties called TennCare. And in 10 short budget years, Mr. Speaker, I saw our costs triple from \$2.5 billion a year to \$8.5 billion a year. I saw access for patients go down and the quality of their care go down.

The Affordable Care Act applies this same failed idea to the whole country through a 2,700-page bill and more than 13,000 pages of rules—and still writing. The Affordable Care Act doesn't address the major problem, which is cost. And it's also going to cost jobs.

I spoke to a business owner in Tennessee just this afternoon who has 800 employees. He said his H.R. people looked at this plan. He's going to have to lay off 50 people, put 150 people on part-time work, and possibly close some of his stores.

We need to create an economic environment that creates jobs. The last Congress passed legislation that would destroy jobs. And make no mistake, our health care system was fundamentally flawed before the Affordable Care Act was signed into law. But the Affordable Care Act made a bad situation, I believe, worse. The fact is we don't have free-market medical care today. About half of all the health care bills are paid by government.

But that aside, with all the court cases, the policy proposals, the statistics, it's still important to remember that health care is about human beings. It's about people. There are no Republican or Democrat heart attacks. I've never seen one. I've never operated on a Republican or Democrat cancer in my life. So we need to talk about solutions in a bipartisan way for everyone. Health care is too important to be left to insurance bean counters and to Washington bureaucrats. Government always makes things more expensive and eventually leads to shortages, to long waits, and to rationing.

Let's just talk about a few ideas of what we should do next. Let's start by just leveling the playing field and give all individuals the same tax break that businesses get right now. Just treat an individual like a business. Let's start by empowering our seniors and saving Medicare by giving them choice. Let's

allow small businesses to join together to compete for more affordable insurance just like big corporations do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KLINE. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. And let's lower prescription costs by allowing folks to buy medicines anywhere in the world that's safe. Let's reform medical malpractice. Finally, let's force insurance companies to compete for your business across State lines.

Health care freedom is about the right incentives and personal empowerment, not government mandates and regulation. I strongly encourage a "yes" vote for this bill.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we know what our Republican friends mean when they say give seniors more choice under Medicare. They mean let them choose which private insurance company should run Medicare instead of regular Medicare. American seniors know you can count on the Medicare guarantee no matter what the circumstances are, whether you're profitable to take care of or not. That's why they support Medicare. That's why we support Medicare, even though the majority has voted on several occasions to terminate the Medicare guarantee.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a gentleman who understands that pre-existing conditions should be made illegal and insurance companies should not be able to pursue them, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the gentleman.

It was interesting, we just had a hearing in one of the committees here in Congress, and we had four witnesses who were speculating about the fear and the myths and all the things that they hypothesize could be terrible if the Affordable Care Act were to go into effect. And then we had one witness who was the worst nightmare for those people, who was a Massachusetts businessperson with a thousand employees, president of the largest Chamber of Commerce in the country, was a member of the board of directors of one of the larger banks, and was in fact the regional consultant to the Fed in that area, who said that since Massachusetts accepted the equivalent of the Affordable Care Act, not only his business has done better and his employers have done better and his profits have gone up, but in Massachusetts the economy has done better, more people have been working, less people have been using the emergency room, and more employers are covering their employees. And in fact, that's what it is. The facts certainly outweigh all the speculation and the myth and the fearmongering that we see going on.

There are millions of people who are already taking advantage of the Af-

fordable Care Act. One of those in my district is Terry Palary, whose son is a firefighter who's working towards his paramedic certificate and who has to spend hundreds of hours in an internship that's not paid for. He's 23 years old. He wouldn't have health insurance under his father's plan if this bill the Republicans propose were to go through. And some 3 million other young Americans wouldn't be covered on health insurance plans as well. This is misguided legislation that would end that kind of a benefit.

It would also mean the end of a meaningful consumer protection like the 80/20 provision, where we force insurance companies to actually do something they hadn't been doing: covering health care. Providing health care services instead of paying bonuses. Executive salaries that are through the roof. And advertising and other costs—anything but health care on that. It's estimated that some 12.8 million Americans are going to receive more than \$1.1 billion in rebates because of that provision alone.

It would also see, if this bill to repeal passed, 360,000 small businesses would no longer get the business tax credits. They would no longer be able to cover some 2 million employees.

This list goes on and on. We can show you example after example of people who have fallen through the doughnut hole—those seniors—for coverage that are now being protected by the Affordable Care Act. Let's find out what we can do about jobs. Let's stop this 31st attempt to repeal an act that that's not going to be repealed and get the American people back to work.

Mr. KLINE. I am pleased to yield 1 minute to a distinguished member of the committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Today, I rise to support the repeal of President Obama's health care law. I support health care reform that ensures that all Americans have access to affordable health care. However, I believe the health care law is fundamentally flawed in its approach and will only make worse our skyrocketing high health care costs and Federal deficit. A study last month found the cost of health care services is expected to rise 7.5 percent in 2013.

I'm also very concerned about the law's negative effects on job creation. I have met with hundreds of employers in my district and hear constantly how the mandates and uncertainties created by the law are discouraging hiring. The report issued by the investment research firm UBS last September said that the health care law was "arguably the biggest impediment to hiring."

We need the right reforms to eliminate waste throughout the system and reward high quality, low-cost care. We should be choosing approaches which give consumers incentives to use their health care dollars wisely. Instead, we're going in the opposite direction by turning decisions over to the government.

I support this bill and would urge all my colleagues to work together to implement real reform to ensure every American has access to affordable health care.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds.

We share the gentleman from Wisconsin's concern about squeezing down health care costs. The record shows that since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, growth in Medicare costs, which had been 8 percent annually, has fallen to 6 percent annually by stopping giveaway corporate welfare profits to insurance companies and other waste while increasing Medicare benefits.

I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to a Member who understands that being a woman should never mean paying higher premiums or being a preexisting condition, the gentlelady from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

□ 1750

Ms. WOOLSEY. Our ranking member today has proven something that's very clear to me: this is baloney. The arguments are baloney. So baloney, baloney, baloney. We're here, Mr. Speaker, standing on the House floor for the 31st time with the majority serving more baloney regarding the Affordable Care Act.

They haven't brought a single jobs bill to the floor; but for the 31st time in the last year and a half, they are voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

This is just another political show, act XXXI in the Republican theater of the absurd. In a moment when what we need is real leadership to tackle serious challenges, I'm still waiting for the majority's constructive ideas on health care. But all I hear are crickets. This leaves me to conclude that they truly prefer a health care system in crisis—millions uninsured and out-of-control costs crushing families and small businesses. They must believe that it's okay for insurance companies to deny you coverage because of a preexisting condition and particularly to charge you more if you are a woman. They are obviously against seniors saving on prescription drug costs, and they are against increased access to preventive care.

We need to strengthen these reforms instead of dismantling them. The Affordable Care Act is the beginning, not the end. Actually, for nearly a half century, Medicare has provided coverage to seniors and those with disabilities in a fair, cost-efficient way. So maybe, just maybe, it's time to give every American those same benefits. We could do that by passing Medicare "E," "Medicare for Everyone."

Enough baloney, because it's time for the wealthiest Nation in the world to provide health care for all.

Mr. KLINE. I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to a very distinguished member of the committee, the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 6079, to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Whether it's dropped coverage, higher costs or lost jobs, the unintended consequences of this legislation continue to add up. And now that the Supreme Court has declared the individual mandate to be a tax, we know that this law contains over 20 distinct tax increases.

We cannot continue to ignore the impact of this law on jobs while millions of Americans remain out of work. Nor should we cut \$500 billion from Medicare or leave in place new rules that the CBO estimates will eliminate employer-sponsored insurance for millions of Americans.

Instead of tinkering with broken pieces, we should take the cleaner route, repeal the law, and end policies that are raising costs. In their place, we can enact consensus-driven, bipartisan solutions that Democrat leaders have ignored in the past. At the same time, there's no reason we can't maintain coverage for preexisting conditions and young adults.

Let's give the Americans what they want: lower costs, access to quality care, and more choice. We can do that through the association health plans for small businesses, by allowing consumers to buy insurance across State lines, and by extending health savings accounts. And we must move forward on commonsense legislation to curb junk lawsuits that drive up costs and force doctors to practice expensive defensive medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in repealing this regrettable law. Then we can put our focus back on effective reforms that will deliver lower costs without putting the government between patients and their doctors.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to hear this charge that there's \$500 billion in Medicare cuts in the health care bill. Here are the facts: the new law eliminates a corporate welfare subsidy for certain health insurance companies and goes after some wasteful Medicare practices. All the Republican speakers who have spoken today must agree with those cuts because every single one of them has voted for every single one of those cuts in the last two Ryan Republican budgets. Every dollar of Medicare savings in the Health Savings Act is in the last two Republican budgets.

I am pleased at this time to yield 2 minutes to someone who understands the benefit of families' being able to keep their sons and daughters on health insurance policies until they're 26, my friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey who is so expert in these matters.

Matt from West Windsor wrote me:

I graduated from college this past May and am currently working at a job with new health insurance. I have a preexisting condition, and, shockingly, I truly would be without insurance and in big trouble if this legislation is reversed.

Carolyn from East Brunswick contacted me to say she had been laid off and her COBRA benefits were about to expire. At age 25 and because of the Affordable Care Act, she can enroll as a dependent on her father's Federal employee benefits plan.

Mary from Princeton wrote:

Our son has cystic fibrosis and he would be subject to both the lifetime cap on benefits and the denial because of preexisting conditions were it not for the provisions of the health reform.

Many people in New Jersey tell me they need those things that the health reform law does for them, including protections against premium increases, as well as many others, like coverage for young adults, ensuring that people with preexisting conditions have access to health insurance and the elimination of lifetime limits.

Now, the majority here who are trying to repeal this law say they want to keep those provisions. I say get real. You cannot repeal the law and still have the provisions of the law in effect.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a member of the committee, the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I would like to thank Chairman KLINE for yielding.

I am thankful for his leadership on this very important issue promoting limited government and expanding freedom.

Due to the passage of ObamaCare, America is set to experience the largest tax increase in our Nation's history which destroys jobs. Over the past year and a half, House Republicans have voted over 30 times to repeal, defund, or dismantle the President's job-destroying health care takeover. If this law remains on the books, 21 new or increased taxes will be imposed on the American people and small businessowners. Already, the 2,700-page bill has generated over 13,000 pages of mind-boggling regulations destroying jobs.

Over the Fourth of July recess, I visited Columbus, Ohio, and read a very thoughtful editorial in The Columbus Dispatch entitled "Placebo." The article states:

The law creates headaches for businesses of all sizes that are likely to create a continuing drag on the economy and job creation. Small businesses employing close to 50 people will resist adding more workers since 50 is the threshold at which the law requires them to provide health care or pay a penalty or tax.

Throughout the past 3 years, the President and the liberal controlled Senate have pushed government red tape stalling economic growth, just like the policies of ObamaCare. Our unemployment rate has remained at over

8 percent for 41 months. It is clear the President's liberal policies are destroying jobs.

In order to put Americans back to work, we must start by repealing this overreaching bill and then vote for the process of replacement by market reforms as developed by Chairman TOM PRICE of the Policy Committee.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 25 seconds.

The gentleman just said this is the largest tax increase in American history. Here is the record: there are two kinds of people who will pay higher taxes under this law. Ninety-seven percent of American families won't pay one dime of tax increases under this law. The first family that pays a tax increase is a family with a gross income in excess of about \$300,000 a year. It's about 1 percent, maybe 2 percent, of the U.S. households. The second is a person who can afford health insurance, who elects not to buy it, who uses the emergency room and expects his or her neighbors to pay their bill. That's not the largest tax increase in American history.

At this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a gentledady who understands who gets hurt if this law gets repealed, the gentledady from San Diego, Mrs. DAVIS.

□ 1800

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, here we are debating for the 31st time to repeal health care reform. But again, repeal would be a tragedy for America.

Repeal would mean that children with preexisting conditions would lose their health care coverage.

Repeal would mean that 86 million Americans will no longer have access to free preventative care services.

Repeal would mean seniors would no longer save money on their prescription drugs.

Repeal would mean that 16 million middle class Americans would not get tax credits to pay for their health care.

Repeal would mean that my constituent's sister who had breast cancer would still lose her house due to excessive medical bills because she could not afford health insurance.

Repeal would mean that my constituent who had successful ovarian cancer treatment years ago would still not be able to purchase health insurance because of her preexisting condition.

There are millions of Americans who are fortunate enough to have health insurance they actually like, and they ask me why they should support reform. Well, first, this economic downturn should have taught us all that we are just one pink slip away from losing our health insurance. By allowing the unemployed to purchase affordable insurance, health care reform changes that.

Second, the uninsured, who have no other choice but to use the emergency room as a primary care office, dras-

tically raise hospital rates for the rest of Americans who do have insurance. As a result, the insured are paying substantially higher premiums, and a mere trip to the hospital to rule out an appendicitis costs \$5,000. By requiring that everyone who can afford it have health insurance, health care reform changes that.

Small business owners in my district concerned about the new mandates in health care reform ask me why they should support it. These small business owners have always wanted to offer their employees health coverage, but they haven't been able to do so because the cost has been high and unpredictable. Health care reform changes that. Now small businesses have a risk pool for more stable and affordable premiums.

What repeal really means, Mr. Speaker, is that affordable health care, now within reach for so many Americans, would become a distant dream.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire as to the time remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENACCI). The gentleman from Minnesota has 17 minutes. The gentleman from New Jersey has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota, the chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, for yielding me this time and for his leadership in combatting this terrible bill in the aftermath of a very disappointing Supreme Court decision, ruling that sometimes what we all thought and were told was a penalty is now a tax, but sometimes it's not a tax, it's a penalty. First time in the history of the United States Supreme Court, in over 200 years of decisions, that a device has been called both a penalty and a tax at the same time. Very disappointing, and here's what it leaves American citizens with. This is your new health care system: more than 150 new government agencies and programs.

I was called by PolitiFact a couple of months ago, and they said, Where do you get that 150 new government agencies and programs? We sent them a list of 158 new government agencies and programs with the page number of the bill and the section number of the statute, and we've never heard back from PolitiFact. I'm disappointed. I thought we were going to see one of those arrows pointing all the way over to the far right saying, "True."

And it is true. Not only do we get 150 new agencies and programs, we get 400 new authorities for the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other bureaucrats here in Washington to dictate to families and businesses, large and small, to local governments and State governments, to insurance companies, to health care providers what your insurance policy is going to look

like, which means you won't be able to keep the insurance that you like now and that you were promised you could keep by the President once upon a time. No, no, siree.

We already have 12,000 pages of new regulations that have been written, and they haven't even covered about half of those 400 new mandates, new regulatory authorities that they can write regulations on.

It's going to cost \$2 trillion over 10 years, a half a trillion dollars in cuts to Medicare, over \$800 billion in new taxes, including a quarter of a trillion dollars in taxes on middle-income Americans.

The fact of the matter is this monstrosity needs to be repealed. Vote for this legislation and repeal it today.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Two points with respect to my friend from Virginia's comments:

This tax, once again, 97 percent of American families don't pay a dime more in taxes here. It's families with a gross income in excess of about \$300,000 a year and people who can afford health insurance, opt not to buy it, and send their neighbors the bills.

These regulations my friend talks about, here's what one of the regulations says:

If your health insurance company—which doesn't really have to compete for your business because they have a monopoly or oligopoly—doesn't spend money on your premiums, at least 80 or 85 percent, they have to give you the money back as a rebate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ANDREWS. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

This summer, millions of American families will be getting rebates from their health insurance companies because they haven't spent their money on care; they spent it on profit and overhead. We don't think that's such a bad regulation.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of time, I think my friend, the chairman, has more speakers than we do, so we're going to have them go two for our one to kind of keep it even, if that's okay with my friend, the chairman.

Mr. KLINE. I appreciate my friend having me do that, and we're glad to comply, Mr. Speaker. So at this time, I'm pleased to yield 1 minute to another member of the committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, prior to Congress, I spent nearly three decades as a professional in a nonprofit health care setting, and in health care there's a saying: Do no harm. Unfortunately, ObamaCare violates this principle.

The President promised that his plan would decrease annual premium rates for the average family; they've actually increased.

The law creates an employer mandate that provides a perverse incentive

for companies to drop their employees from health plans.

The law wastes money on so-called “demonstration” programs in order to conceal the law’s scheduled cuts to Medicare Advantage, a blatant attempt to isolate the President from the political fallout from our Nation’s seniors in November.

The administration insisted that failure to comply with the individual mandate would not result in a tax. Well, it’s official. It’s a tax.

The American people are fed up. Why? Another check was written that cannot be cashed, more promises were made that cannot be kept.

Mr. Speaker, we must protect the American taxpayer. We must prevent this policy from doing more harm. We must repeal this law.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds.

My friend from Pennsylvania just made reference to the employer mandate. It’s very important that the public know and the Members know that if a business has 50 or fewer full-time employees, what they have to do under the Affordable Care Act is nothing. There is no mandate of any kind for a business with fewer than 50 full-time employees.

I’m pleased at this point to yield 2 minutes to a gentlelady who fought hard for senior citizen rebates and prescription drugs, the gentlelady from Cleveland, Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 6079.

Republicans in Congress need to stop the political grandstanding, stop wasting this House’s time and the taxpayers’ money, and start doing the work we were elected to do. There are critical issues facing the American people that desperately need our attention.

The middle class is asking Republicans: Where are the jobs? And what is their plan to stop outsourcing American jobs?

We should and we must focus on legislation in this House that will strengthen our economy. Yet it seems like Groundhog Day, the same thing over and over and over again.

The American people should know what it’s going to mean to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Let me tell you what it means.

It means that the Republicans support legislation that will make insurance company CEOs and executives richer.

It means that Republicans support legislation that will deny the right of young adults to remain on their parents’ insurance until age 26.

What it means is that the Republicans support legislation that will deny individuals with preexisting conditions the right to affordable health care.

It means that Republicans support legislation that will raise prescription drug costs for our seniors and eliminate provisions that hold insurance

companies accountable for double-digit premium increases.

□ 1810

It means that Republicans support legislation that will raise the taxes of hundreds of thousands of small businesses by eliminating the small business health care tax credit, which helped them afford health insurance for more than 2 million workers.

And just for the record, The Washington Post Fact Checker has also concluded, and I quote, “The health law will provide more tax relief than tax burden for middle class families.”

Again, it says, “The health law will provide more tax relief than tax burden for middle class families.”

This repeal would mean that Republicans support legislation that will prevent eligible constituents from receiving the same health care coverage as Members of Congress. And I’m not sure why Republicans feel their constituents do not deserve the same access that they enjoy themselves. But by voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, that is exactly the message being sent to the people we represent.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a member of the committee, the very distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. DESJARLAIS.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House Floor today to call attention to yet another problem in this poorly drafted, 2,700-page job-killing bill.

We all remember former Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI’s famous statement that they needed to pass the bill so we could find out what was in it. Today I stand here perplexed by not only what is in the bill but also what is not in the bill.

When drafting ObamaCare, Democrats only gave authority for the IRS to offer premium tax credits to State exchanges. Well, many States are refusing to set up these exchanges, making it necessary for the Federal Government to create them. That is permissible within the law.

Here is what is not: nowhere in the law does it give permission for those credits to be offered in federally-run exchanges. Mr. Obama, having recognized this grave mistake, has circumvented Congress by having the IRS unilaterally change his bill to fix this error.

Last time I checked, it was Congress that made laws, not the executive branch. The legislative process should still have meaning in this country, which is why my colleague and fellow Tennessee physician Dr. PHIL ROE and I recently introduced legislation which prevents the administration from rewriting the law. Even my colleagues who support the President’s law will surely agree that his administration’s actions lead us down a dangerous constitutional path.

My opposition to ObamaCare is clear. That aside, having a President act

without Congress to change law sets a dangerous precedent, one that violates the principles of our Constitution and the separation of power, principles that are the pillars of our democracy.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

My friend’s comments echo ones we’ve heard for the last 2 years about the unconstitutionality of the law. The Supreme Court spoke with great authority to that question. People may agree or disagree with the policy, but this law is clearly constitutional and valid.

I am pleased at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), the author, the originator of the discrimination provisions against preexisting conditions, the gentleman that really initiated that.

Mr. COURTNEY. Thank you, Mr. ANDREWS, for your leadership in this debate here this evening.

We’ve heard a lot of misleading comments about the so-called damage that has been done to U.S. employers as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Well, the people who make those statements forgot to ask the 5,200 American employers who stampeded into the Affordable Care Act’s early retiree reinsurance program, over half of the Fortune 500 companies in this country included in that group, some of whose corporate logos are on the chart here.

And rather than causing problems with new employment, again, just looking at Ford Motor Company, they’ve added 7,000 workers this year to the ranks of their assembly plants, obviously using the benefit of the early retiree program, which acts as a Federal backstop for high insurance claims, a principle and a pattern that we have used for flood insurance, that we’ve used for nuclear power plant insurance, again, using the Federal Government as a backstop for high cost claims. And again, companies like Comcast, who are hiring in my district, have all taken advantage of this program.

Individuals who make these claims have also forgotten to ask the 360,000 small businesses that last year took advantage of the small business tax credit, a 35 percent tax credit on health insurance premiums. That number is going to go up to 50 percent starting in 2014.

And as Mr. ANDREWS has repeatedly pointed out here tonight, there is no mandate on businesses or firms 50 or less. That’s 96 percent of small businesses in America. But there will be a tax credit to help those firms actually defray the cost because, as a former small employer myself, small employers want to provide benefits. The problem is that they have trouble affording it, and the tax credit set up in the Affordable Care Act will help those small businesses defray the costs and entice and enroll new employees in their businesses who are looking for those types of the benefits.

So the fact of the matter is that with the job growth that we have seen, again, we need more. But with the job growth over the last year and a half since the Affordable Care Act went into effect, we have helped businesses, 5,200 employers who are using the early retiree insurance programs, including nonprofits, religious institutions, and public sector employers across the country, and 360,000 small businesses who've taken advantage of that tax credit.

We need to build on that success and grow this economy. Let's skip this debate and move on to real jobs legislation.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

We've heard a couple of times today from my distinguished friend and colleague from New Jersey and again from the well about how small employers aren't affected by this. If you have 50 or fewer employees, you have to do absolutely nothing. But of course if you have 51, if you hire just one more employee, you have to pay \$42,000 in penalties, I mean taxes, or whatever that is after the Supreme Court ruling.

It's having an impact on our employers. There's a reason why they're not hiring. There's a reason why they're scared, and there's a reason, frankly, why they want us to repeal this awful piece of law.

I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to a member of the committee, a physician, the distinguished gentleman from Indiana, Dr. BUCSHON.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It's ironic that this legislation is called "affordable," because in my home State of Indiana it will be anything but affordable.

What's in it?

How about 21 new taxes, most of which hit the middle class. The law has generated and will continue to generate thousands of pages of regulation to comply with, and establishes taxpayer-subsidized exchanges that are predicted to be overwhelmed when employers start dropping their private policies for their employees. Paying the penalty will just be more cost-effective for these employers.

In Indiana, there will be approximately 500,000 additional Medicaid enrollees in 2014, and by 2024 there will be approximately 700,000 additional enrollees compared to today.

Medicaid is already a broken, financially-strapped program that does not provide good insurance coverage for its beneficiaries. Why would we use Medicaid as the vehicle to provide coverage?

Access to physicians will continue to be a significant challenge, as fewer and fewer physicians take Medicaid. The additional cost will be 2.5 to \$3.1 billion to Indiana's Medicaid expenditures. Once the Federal subsidies end, State taxes will have to be increased dramatically or, more likely, reimburse-

ment to providers, hospitals, and physicians will need to be cut. This will result in further access issues for beneficiaries, as even more doctors drop out of the program.

As the number of Indiana residents depending on the exchanges for their insurance grows, the cost to the Federal taxpayer will grow rapidly. Either taxes will have to be increased or again, more probably, reimbursement to providers will be cut.

We now have a new group of citizens, many of whom previously had private health coverage, that are dependent on a government program that is financially strapped. Access to providers will begin to become an issue.

The ACA is a financial snowball rolling down the hill. We must repeal it before it's too late. We need step-by-step, patient-centered health care reform that decreases the cost while maintaining the access to and quality of medical care in this country.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman from Indiana just said that this would be where taxes would hit the middle class. I wish that were true in some ways because the people this hits are people with a household income of over \$300,000 a year. I wish more people in the middle class made more than \$300,000 a year, but they do not.

And then secondly, with respect to Medicaid enrollees, for the first 3 years the Federal Treasury picks up 100 percent of that cost. And thereafter, the average is about 95 percent of the cost of the new enrollees. This is a benefit to State governments, and I predict that virtually all of them will opt to join in.

□ 1820

At this time, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to a gentleman who understands the impact on hardworking families being able to get affordable health care in this country, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN).

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the Republicans' attempt to repeal the new health care law.

When people in St. Louis go to work, they want fair pay for a day's work. When they buy dinner on the way home, they expect to pay a fair price. They don't expect to get gouged because the chef needs a new set of golf clubs. Yet those are examples of what has happened in the health care industry. Private health insurance premiums are rising faster than Medicare costs in order to provide the same services. Bonuses, advertising, overhead have crowded out dollars for actual health care.

The Affordable Care Act, or the ACA, changes that.

Now, by law, 80 percent of private insurance premiums must be spent on paying for health care. Some companies cannot or will not lower overhead and profits to 20 percent. So this year they will be forced to pay refunds of

more than \$170, on average, to more than 580,000 residents in my State of Missouri.

So, Mr. Speaker, for those who have stood up for health care today, I stand with them. The Republican idea is to go backward to the broken system of the past. They are trying to end insurance for kids with preexisting conditions; to end the protection from prescription drug costs; to end free mammograms; to end the affordability tax credits for small businesses; to end refunds from insurance companies that don't spend enough on health care.

Let's call this Republican repeal bill what it is. This is a distraction from addressing the jobs agenda of this country. Let's get past this Republican stunt. Let's get back to work on things we can do together to continue to grow this economy.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I inquire again as to the time remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 1 minute to a member of the committee, the distinguished gentlelady from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

Mrs. NOEM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this bill, which would repeal the President's health care law.

We've known all along that this bill will cut a half a trillion dollars out of Medicare. We've known all along that up to 20 million Americans could lose their employer-sponsored health care coverage. We've known all along that this health care law has only made costs go up rather than go down or decrease since its passage. However, we now know that buried within the 2,700 pages of this bill is yet another tax that is going to hit and fall on the middle class. This is in addition to the nearly two dozen tax increases already in the law on everything from over-the-counter prescription medication to pacemakers.

The American people were given a laundry list of promises, but very little of what was promised has turned out to be true. We owe it to every taxpayer, to every senior—to every American—to repeal this law and to pass real solutions that don't put Washington in charge of our health care.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds.

The gentlelady just talked about cutting a half a trillion dollars from Medicare. The fact is that the Affordable Care Act extends the life of Medicare for 8 years. It adds benefits for seniors and, more interestingly, the cuts that were made which take corporate welfare money away from insurance companies and avoid waste were voted on in favor by every Republican who has spoken today because every dollar of those cuts was used in the last two Republican budgets.

At this time, I would like to yield 1½ minutes to a gentleman who has been a leader in health care for a long time and who understands just how much his district has benefited from affordable health insurance, my good friend from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I've been listening to this debate, not just at this moment but throughout the whole health care debate. It just kind of shocked me. Why are the Republicans so angry with a bill that, essentially, they wrote?

It was the Republicans who wanted to mandate that every person in the United States carry private health care insurance. The bill does that. It was the Republicans who wanted to make sure that people who were cheating on Medicare got busted—no free ride. The bill does that. It was the Republicans who said people ought to help themselves by being healthier—eating better, taking care of their health, and exercising more. The bill encourages that.

So why are you so angry about a bill that has so much Republican writing in it?

And it struck me: Do you remember at the beginning of this year they said, We want to defeat the President—no matter what—even if he signs into law our ideas. That's it. He signed into law an awful lot of Republican ideas, and they can't stand it.

What I want to tell you is don't listen to the rhetoric down here. Go check for yourself. You can go to www.healthcare.gov. Go to your State. Go to your county. Put in some information about yourself. Find out for yourself. Check the facts. It's there. It will tell you what you get and what you don't get.

Look, there are so many good things that this bad repeal is trying to do that it's going to take away affordability, that it's going to take away access, that it's going to take away what Americans have been asking for for over 100 years. Let's keep it. Let's make it work.

Mr. KLINE. I would now like to yield 2 minutes to another member of the committee, the gentlelady from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY).

Mrs. ROBY. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor. Of course, on March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the largest health care overall in the history of the United States. Sadly, it is less about providing quality health care for all citizens and more about expanding the scope of Federal Government.

The law failed to address the number one health care concern that families and employers have, and that's cost. As I've been sitting here and have listened to the debate, under the individual mandate, each individual absolutely will be penalized or taxed—we'll call it

a tax because the Supreme Court did—if in America—this free country—that person chooses to remain uninsured or to purchase health care that is not government-approved, and this is regardless of one's income.

Despite the Supreme Courts's ruling, a significant number of Americans continue to oppose ObamaCare, and they are encouraging Congress to take immediate action. Americans and their doctors, not Federal bureaucrats and politicians, are in the best position to determine which health care options best meet their individual needs. Regardless of the Court's decision, many problems within the law remain present, many of which have a significant impact on small businesses. The American people do not want a one-size-fits-all health care system that imposes numerous mandates, regulations, and tax hikes on employers and employees. This will be devastating not just to my home State of Alabama but also to the Nation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve our health care system by implementing market-based reforms that actually lower costs, increase access, and maintain a high quality of care for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to listen to the voices of the American people and to support H.R. 6079.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

My friend from Alabama, in describing the individual mandate which Republicans have supported for years, said that it's imposed irrespective of income. That's not accurate. If you're on Medicaid, the mandate, of course, is covered by Medicaid. There is also a hardship exemption for someone who can demonstrate that he can't afford it, and he is given a subsidy. There is also a religious conscience exemption.

At this time, I would like to yield 2 minutes to a gentleman who worked very hard to make sure that small businesses and entrepreneurs were aided by this bill and not hurt by it, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, in this bill before us today, there are several provisions about which I think the American people would be very angry, and they will be very angry when they find out what this body is up to.

In this bill before us today, Members of Congress would be able to maintain their government-subsidized health care after they retire instead of getting insurance, like everybody else, from a plan created under the Affordable Care Act.

□ 1830

Before the Affordable Care Act was passed, Members of Congress were eligible to continue to receive government-subsidized health insurance under the Federal employees health benefits program, even after they retired. This bill before us today would return that benefit and would give government

subsidized health insurance to Members of Congress, even as it took it away from millions of other Americans. Members of Congress should not have access to special health insurance plans paid for by American taxpayers, as Republicans would have us do under this bill.

In addition, this bill would increase the deficit. We don't know by how much. It could be \$143 billion or it could be \$230 billion. The issue is we won't even have that estimate until July 23. Once we have that estimate, it should be important for the Republicans, if they intend to modify this bill, to say how they're paying for it and be honest with the American people. Are the Republicans in favor of increasing the deficit by \$150 billion and at the same time giving lifetime retiree health care benefits to Members of Congress, or do the Republicans intend to pay for this repeal by increasing taxes on the American middle class?

I urge a "no" vote on this Republican bill to give benefits to Members of Congress and to raise taxes on the middle class.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another member of the committee, an emergency room physician, the very distinguished gentleman from Nevada, Dr. HECK.

Mr. HECK. I thank the chair.

Mr. Speaker, just because a law is constitutional, it doesn't mean it's a good law. Just because a law is well intentioned, it doesn't mean that it fulfills its promises.

As a physician, I've heard firsthand from patients who have serious concerns about the so-called Affordable Care Act, that it would actually reduce access to affordable high quality health care by enacting substantial new taxes, creating thousands of pages of new regulations, and most alarmingly, putting unelected, unaccountable government bureaucrats in between patients and their doctors.

Millions of Americans were assured that if they liked their health plan, they could keep it. Yet, our committee has heard testimony from businesses large and small that the increased costs of providing health coverage for employees is simply unsustainable. I've talked with business owners in my own district that want to continue to provide coverage for their employees, but the health care law is making that harder. These so-called "small business tax credits" phase out so quickly after you get above 10 employees or you start to increase wages that it's a disincentive to grow a business.

Further, the Supreme Court's ruling highlights an uncomfortable truth for the law's supporters. This law stands only because the individual mandate is considered a tax, even though proponents repeatedly insisted it was not.

Mr. Speaker, we were told Congress had to pass the bill to find out what was in it. What we found was a bait and switch of unprecedented proportions. I

strongly believe that we should ensure that patients with preexisting conditions have affordable insurance options, that annual or lifetime limits don't prevent Americans from receiving the care and treatment they need, and that young adults have access to insurance, especially in difficult economic times. That's why I've introduced replacement legislation to do exactly that, without a government takeover of the system.

We need to repeal this law and move forward with reasonable, bipartisan, patient-centered reforms that restore the government to its proper role in our health care system and ensure that our patients, their families, and their doctors have the ability to decide what care is most appropriate. It's for those reasons that I strongly urge support of H.R. 6079.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 40 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we've done some research, and have been unable to find any occasion in the recent history of the House where a major piece of legislation has been brought to the floor where the Congressional Budget Office has not yet scored what it's going to cost. I think it's very important that Members understand this. No one can tell the Members of the House how much this repeal will add to the deficit. No one. When the first repeal came up in January of 2011, the Congressional Budget Office said it would add about \$220 billion plus to the deficit to repeal the law. No one can tell us this afternoon how much this will add to the deficit.

The Congressional Budget Office has said by about July 23 they will be able to answer that question, but we're in a huge hurry tonight. We have to pass this law this week because Mr. CANTOR said the day of the Supreme Court decision that we're going to show how bold and decisive we were.

Why should Congress vote on a bill when absolutely no one knows how much it's going to cost? I have not heard that answer from the majority side.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I rise in support of repeal.

Mr. Speaker, when Republicans had control of Congress and the White House during the previous decade, we failed to address America's major health care problems, which were rising costs and a lack of access to health care for millions of hardworking Americans. So we Republicans didn't do the job.

Never passing up a chance to expand the size and power of government over our lives, the Democrats have seized upon this opportunity to change the fundamental nature of health care in America. Instead of fixing the problem, they chose to change the system. It is significant to remember that even though there were serious issues that

needed attention, most Americans at that time were satisfied with their health care coverage.

Nevertheless, ObamaCare passed this House by seven votes and the Senate with no votes to spare. And nobody had read the whole bill. What disturbs me the most is the largest percentage of Americans who were satisfied already with their health care are going to find out to their dismay that the quality of their health care under ObamaCare will go down and the costs will go up.

President Obama has promised those who are content with their current coverage that they could keep it. We now know that is not true.

Mr. Speaker, when Republicans had control of Congress and the White House during the previous decade, we failed to address America's major healthcare problems, which were rising costs and a lack of access to insurance for millions of hardworking Americans. So, we Republicans didn't do the job. Never passing up a chance to expand the size and power of government over our lives, the Democrats have seized upon this opportunity to change the fundamental nature of healthcare in America. Instead of fixing the problem, they chose to change the system. It is significant to remember that, even though there were serious issues that needed attention, most Americans at the time were satisfied with their health coverage. Nevertheless, Obamacare was passed in this House by 7 votes, and passed by the Senate with no votes to spare. What disturbs me most: a large percentage of Americans, especially the ones already satisfied, are going to find out, to their dismay, that the quality of their healthcare under Obamacare will go down and the cost will go up.

President Obama promised that those who are content with their current healthcare coverage could keep their insurance under Obamacare. It is now clear that's not true. Obamacare includes a provision imposing a tax on employers who cancel current coverage and dump employees into a government system. That tax is cheaper to the business than providing health insurance. So a large percentage of the American people will end up in the government system. This, then, takes the bulk of America out of a private system that has incentives built-in to bring down costs and improve quality and puts us into a government system, where inefficiency and bureaucracy are rampant.

Obamacare is not just a step in the wrong direction. It is a race in the wrong direction. The government, pursuant to Obamacare's dictates, has already hired 16,000 new IRS agents to intimidate small business. Is that a good use of healthcare dollars?

Let's commit ourselves to fixing the problems that confront us, by first undoing this behemoth bureaucratic nightmare that has been foisted upon us as a supposed solution.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, if I may engage the chairman. We have only one speaker left on our side. I assume he has the right to close. If it would be amenable to him, we're going to let him finish the rest of his speakers, and then I will close for our side.

Mr. KLINE. Do I understand that the gentleman from New Jersey is the last and only speaker remaining?

Mr. ANDREWS. The last and only.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I have two more speakers and myself.

May I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New Jersey has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of reasons why we should all vote to repeal ObamaCare: the tax increases on middle class Americans and the debt that is going to be piled onto the next generation of Americans.

But I want to talk about the impact of this legislation on our senior citizens, the impact this legislation is going to have on Medicare, and the fact that this bill takes \$500 billion out of Medicare and uses that money for ObamaCare.

The trustees at Medicare have indicated that Medicare will go bankrupt in 12 years. The CBO says it will go bankrupt in 8 years. Why we would take a half a trillion dollars out of Medicare for ObamaCare doesn't make sense.

One of my biggest concerns is the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a board that is going to systematically look at where it can reduce reimbursements to doctors, hospitals, and clinics for Medicare reimbursements. If you reduce payments to doctors, hospitals, and clinics for seniors, you're going to impact the quality and access of care for our current seniors. Not a future generation, but our current seniors. I think that's wrong. I think both parties should come together and find a bipartisan bill that will work for all Americans.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

The changes in Medicare that the gentleman from Wisconsin just spoke about added 8 years to the life of Medicare, added benefits to Medicare. They were so bad that he voted for them twice. Every dollar of those Medicare savings were in the last two Republican budgets for which he voted.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, our job as Representatives is twofold: we lead and we listen.

If we think back to the last election that swept a Republican majority into the House, a lot of the surveys say that was a result of the public's dissatisfaction with this law. We voted to repeal all or parts of it multiple times and will continue to do so.

We just conducted an online poll, a mail survey. Although not scientific, it still showed over 97 percent of the folks back in south Texas were opposed to this law. So I'm looking forward to voting to repeal it again, as I'm sure many of my colleagues are.

I do want to take a second to address something that the gentleman on the

other side of the aisle mentioned. We don't have a CBO score for this. I would imagine the cost to the Federal Government, a good chunk of it, is foregone revenue in the taxes that this bill imposes.

□ 1840

It makes no sense that undoing something actually costs the government money in the way of spending; it only costs the government in the way of foregone revenue, just like this bill has cost this economy in foregone jobs.

We have numbers showing that there are thousands of jobs that could be lost as a result of this, and we have small businesses that are telling us they're not growing, they're not expanding because of the uncertainty associated with this law and the costs associated with complying with it.

Mr. ANDREWS. I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time, apparently, in the modern history of the Congress where we voted on a major piece of legislation and not a soul knows how much it's going to cost the Federal treasury. I think that's an irregular and irresponsible procedure. I think on that basis alone people should vote against this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I join with those that are concerned. I urge my colleagues to repeal this health care law so that we can replace it with a plan that is fiscally responsible, that gives Americans the freedom to make health care choices for their family, that contains reforms that actually reduce costs and actually expands coverage.

My concerns here are with this 150 new government agencies that we're going to see, with what I believe will eventually lead to a government takeover of health care with the creation of a new, massive entitlement program with a cost of \$1.76 trillion over the next decade. I know the argument is made, well, we're going to pay for this by cutting Medicare by over half a trillion dollars. How could that possibly be done, given the Office of the Actuary telling us that that's not possible. That is not possible.

All of the taxes in this bill, how that will hurt business, I can tell you right now. Businesses are facing an enormous amount of uncertainty, largely because of our massive debt burden, and here we have compounded that problem with 20 taxes on businesses and individuals in this law.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

The \$1.7 trillion cost the gentleman just mentioned is a gross cost. The last time the CBO looked at this, which was in 2011, the first of 31 attempts at repeal, they said that the net savings to the deficit would be over \$200 billion.

Repealing the health care bill costs the Federal treasury money and adds to the deficit.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Is the gentleman ready to close?

Mr. ANDREWS. Yes, we are. We have no further speakers.

I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides for the civil and constructive tone of this debate. It's been an honor to be a part of it.

I also want to note that the leader of our committee, Congressman MILLER of California, is regrettably not with us because of the death of his mother. We extend our condolences to his family and certainly to our beloved colleague, GEORGE MILLER.

I want to speak for just a few minutes about some people who have been left out of this debate tonight. Most importantly, the people who have been left out of this debate are the people looking for a job in this country, are looking to grow business in this country, because that's what we should be working on here together tonight. We should be working on legislation that puts the American people back to work and creates an environment where America's entrepreneurs can grow and thrive and succeed.

Instead of doing that, instead of asking Speaker BOEHNER's infamous question, "Where are the jobs?" we're asking, "Where is the 31st vote on the repeal of the health care bill?" By doing so, we're forgetting about some other people whose voices will not be heard in this Hall tonight but who need to be heard throughout this country.

The person who had a malignancy in her breast when she was in her twenties and now, when she goes to start a company and get insurance in her thirties, is told, We won't sell you an insurance policy because you had breast cancer, or, We'll charge you three times what we charge someone else. That should be illegal. Under the law that the majority is going to repeal today, it is.

We ought to be hearing from the family whose son or daughter graduated from college and is still working as a substitute teacher or still going to grad school part-time, who has health insurance today because the law says they can stay on their mother's or father's policy. That should be the law; and under the law the majority wants to repeal today, those families would lose that benefit.

We ought to be hearing from the senior citizen who has to choose between paying their prescription drug bill or their utility bill at a time of a heat wave or a cold snap. They ought to be in a situation where the Medicare program helps to make those prescription drugs affordable; and under this law that the majority wants to repeal today, that senior is getting between \$600 and \$800 a year of a rebate.

We ought to be thinking about the family who has suffered the tragedy of a malignancy for a child in their family, and the child hits their millionth dollar of chemotherapy and the insurance company says, We're sorry; we're not insuring you anymore; we're not paying the bill anymore. That ought to be illegal, and it is illegal under the Affordable Care Act. But if the majority succeeds in its repeal, that will no longer be the case.

You have heard a lot of things today about what this bill isn't. It isn't a \$500 million cut in Medicare. It expands Medicare benefits. It lengthens the Medicare trust. It does so by cutting out corporate welfare for health insurance companies. And every single Republican speaker here today voted for every one of those cuts in the last two Republican budgets.

It's not the largest tax increase in American history. Ninety-seven percent of American families don't pay a dollar more in taxes under this bill. If your family has a gross income above about \$300,000, yes, you do. But for the other 97 percent of American families, that's not the case.

We've heard this is a government takeover of health care. This is a consumer takeover of health care.

It's a law that says when your insurance company says to you, "Sorry, but you have had breast cancer. We won't insure you," you don't have to take that anymore.

When your insurance company says, "We're sorry your daughter has leukemia, but we're not paying her bills anymore," even though you paid your premiums for 20 years, you don't have to take that anymore.

When the insurance company says, "Here's a bill that's 40 percent higher because you're a woman," you don't have to take that anymore.

This is not about defending a statute; it's about defending the rights of middle-class Americans who deserve better than this repeal.

We should defeat this repeal and come right back to work tomorrow on a bill that will stop outsourcing and support insourcing of American jobs. It's time to get back to work putting America back to work and end the 31st travesty of trying to repeal this bill.

Vote "no."

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of the same debate, the same rhetoric we have heard before this bill was turned into law, passed on Christmas Eve, jammed through Congress. Now we have had a chance to look at the results of that law. The reality includes higher health care costs, fewer jobs, and even more government meddling in health care decisions of private citizens.

We have now had over 12,000 pages of regulations and it is still writing. It's no wonder that America, American employers, American employees, American families are afraid of what's next.

We have heard on this floor today a suggestion that everybody should be in Medicare. No wonder they are afraid. We have heard about millions of new jobs added, and yet we're in the most anemic recovery since World War II.

We need jobs. We need to get Americans back to work. And we believe that the first important step to helping those employers put Americans back to work is to repeal this awful law.

I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on repeal of ObamaCare so we can stop debating a failed law and start advancing real commonsense health care reforms.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1850

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Let me say it this way, Mr. Speaker. This bill barely passed into law. It was the biggest social legislation to pass into law in over 40 years. Seven votes in the House, no votes to spare in the Senate, Christmas Eve, backroom deal, and it was based on three promises by the President of the United States. One, if you like the health insurance you have, you can keep it. That's a broken promise. Two, this will bring down our health care premiums. That's a broken promise. Three, there's no tax on people making less than \$200,000 in this bill. That's a broken promise. Well, the President said, to get it passed, there was no tax. Then, he sent his lawyer to the Supreme Court to argue that it was a tax so he can keep it on the books.

If any of these three broken promises were known to the public and to Congress at the time they were passing this law, the law would have never passed in the first place. We now have this information. Let's revisit this.

With that, I look forward to a hardy debate with my good friend from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

What we're engaged in here in the House of Representatives right now is a total waste of taxpayer money. It's no wonder the American people think so little of this institution. We are now on our 31st effort in this House to repeal all or part of ObamaCare. We have not yet voted once on the President's jobs bill, which he presented last September.

Two numbers. Thirty-one; that's the number of times this House will now have voted to repeal ObamaCare. Zero; that's the number of times that we voted on the President's jobs bill.

I've been listening to this debate this afternoon and we've heard the same old, tired misrepresentations and distortions that we heard the first time around: Government takeover of health care. In the year 2010, PolitiFact rated that the Lie of the Year. And it just goes on and on and on like whack-a-mole.

The American people do not want to relitigate this issue. What the Amer-

ican people want us to do is focus on jobs and the economy. Let's get on with that business.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, a member of the Budget Committee, Mr. FLORES.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the repeal of the ObamaCare Act. The original ObamaCare Act, which was passed in the middle of the night by the last Congress, without being read, has numerous fatal flaws.

One, the worst of these is that it is a violation of our constitutional liberties.

Two, it fails upon its primary goals of controlling costs and allowing Americans to keep their current health insurance coverage.

Three, it hurts our hardworking taxpayers by adding over 20 new taxes costing over \$800 billion.

Four, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, it will cost our Nation's workers over 800,000 jobs.

Five, in addition, now that the State Medicaid mandate has been ruled unconstitutional, those costs will increase by several hundred billion dollars over its already massive cost.

Six, ObamaCare puts 15 unelected, unaccountable Federal bureaucrats between Americans and their health care providers.

Seven, even though just partially implemented, it has caused health care insurance premiums across the country to increase dramatically.

Eight, last but not least, ObamaCare is causing massive uncertainty for American business, hurting American job growth and our economy and the American middle class, adding pain to an already troubled Obama economy.

Mr. Speaker, in light of these many flaws, it is time for Congress to do the right thing and to repeal this fatally flawed legislation. That is what H.R. 6079 does, simply put, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it's quite a scene to see so many of our colleagues rush to the floor of this House to call upon this Congress to deny the American people health care protections, patient protections, that every Member of this Congress has. If the child of a Member of this Congress has preexisting conditions, whether it's diabetes, whether it's asthma, their child gets covered. If their child is 25 years old and didn't happen to have health insurance, they can be covered on the health insurance plan. And yet this bill to repeal ObamaCare would deny to the American people the same kind of patient protections that every Member of this Congress enjoys.

It's a sad day.

With that, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this legislation.

As so many of us know, 2 weeks ago, the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act, affirming the path forward to those consumer protections and to increase access to affordable health insurance coverage; for seniors to afford lifesaving medications; for the 17 million American children who have preexisting conditions to receive coverage for the care that they need; the 30 million uninsured Americans to be able to afford coverage.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, families will not go broke because of an illness, small businesses can afford coverage for their employees, and young adults, 6.6 million of them, can remain on their parents' insurance. Yet Republicans are continuing their politically motivated attempts to repeal health care reform instead of working to grow our economy and strengthen the financial security of America's middle class.

Today is the 31st time Republicans have called for a vote to deny Americans access to affordable, quality health coverage. This legislation reflects a clear decision by Republicans to put partisanship ahead of the pressing needs of our constituents and our country. Their actions are taking time and attention away from the work we should be doing. It's wasteful and it's misguided. Their actions are creating uncertainty and hurting our economic recovery and the security of middle class Americans.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and get to work on jobs and economic growth for our families, for businesses, and for our Nation, and stop this wasteful, unnecessary action.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma, a distinguished member of the Budget Committee, Mr. COLE.

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is unpopular, unworkable, and unaffordable. It's unpopular because it limits individual freedom and personal choice. It's unworkable because it relies on thousands of regulations, dozens of boards and commissions, and an unelected group of bureaucrats to distribute and ration care. We have the opportunity today to end a bill that's also unaffordable. Hundreds of billions of dollars worth of taxes, hundreds of billions of dollars worth of raids on the Medicare fund.

We can only take the first step here today. But in November, the American people can take the next step by electing a President and a Senate that will work with this House instead of against them to repeal what is a legislative monstrosity that should have never passed in the first place.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who just spoke, the gentleman from Oklahoma, called this bill unaffordable. We heard the debate a little bit earlier about what the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office

has said about this bill, the Affordable Care Act.

□ 1900

They say if you repeal the Affordable Care Act, it will increase the deficit over the next 10 years, and it will increase it by over \$1 trillion in the second 10 years. Yet, we have this bill on the floor today without even a fresh Congressional Budget Office estimate. So nobody knows how those numbers may or may not change.

What we do know is that the last assessment that they give us is that the action that our Republican colleagues are proposing today would increase—increase—our national deficit. That is not fiscal responsibility.

With that, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), a member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Thank you, Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

This Republican Tea Party Congress is wasting America's time promoting the only issue they care about—their reelection. Today's vote is not about health care. It's a gimmick that panders to the Tea Party. This bill shows the Republican vision for health care is deny coverage, deny care, and deny the law of the land. If you have a child with a preexisting condition, possibly a life-threatening illness, this Republican plan means your child's health care insurance can be terminated. If you're a senior on Medicare, this Republican plan throws you back into the doughnut hole. The Republican plan repeals the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, harming Native children, families, and seniors all across Indian country.

The Affordable Care Act is the constitutional law of the land, and it is a good law because Obama does care. President Obama and Democrats must continue to work to implement the law and extend quality, affordable health care to millions of Americans. And this Congress must get back to work putting America back to work.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, let me yield myself 30 seconds to simply comment.

We know the CBO is going to give us a score perhaps in a couple of weeks, and it's going to be more expensive. That much we know. We know States will probably put more people on ObamaCare instead of Medicaid, which will cost more dollars. The only reason this bill "on paper" saves money is because they told CBO to score 10 years of tax increases of Medicare savings to pay for 6 years of spending.

You can contort, distort, and torture statistics long enough, and eventually they will confess. That's what happened here. In reality, I have no doubt that this will be a budget buster.

With that, I would like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Chairman RYAN noted the false claims upon which ObamaCare was sold to the Congress, and I think they bear elaboration now that we know what is actually in it. It didn't bend the cost curve down. The Medicare actuary admitted to the House Budget Committee last year that it will add at least \$300 billion more to our health care costs. It hasn't been good for the economy.

The gentleman from Maryland asks for the Congressional Budget Office's opinion. They admitted to the House Budget Committee last year that, in fact, ObamaCare would cost our economy a net loss of 800,000 jobs. They also told us if you like your plan, you can keep it. Well, the McKinsey's survey of employers reports that nearly one-third expect to drop their employees' health plans as a result of this law, like them or not.

It seems to me three strikes and you're out. We need a system that puts patients back in charge, that provides tax reforms to put health care back within the reach of every American family and restores to them the freedom to make their own health care decisions without the interference of government bureaucrats.

This bill is a necessary first step to get us there.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, just to respond to my friend, the chairman of the Budget Committee, with respect to the CBO estimate, if it was true that over the 10-year period you had tax revenue loaded in the way that would sort of so-called deceive the impact of the deficit, it would stand to reason it would get worse over the second 10 years. In fact, the deficit savings, in other words, the reductions to the deficit, is greater over the second 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, than the deficit reduction over the first 10 years. And if you repeal the bill, as the Republicans are proposing to do today, you will not only add to the deficit in the first 10 years, but you'll add even more to the deficit over the 20-year period.

I now yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Florida, a member of the Budget Committee, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it's time to put an end to the pointless, partisan games. The Affordable Care Act has now been passed by a duly elected Congress, signed by the President and upheld as constitutional—despite the chagrin of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and their best efforts—upheld as constitutional by the United States Supreme Court.

More importantly, Americans, and particularly south Floridians, are already benefiting from this law. Thanks to the closing of the coverage gap, the doughnut hole, seniors in my district can now afford their prescription drugs instead of having to choose which ones they have to leave behind at the pharmacy because they can't afford to take them all home when they fall in the

doughnut hole. And young adults have the security of staying on their parents' plan until the age of 26.

As a cancer survivor and a mother, this law is important to me because through it, the nearly 4 million Floridians who don't currently have health insurance will be able to get the coverage that they need.

Mr. Speaker, this is our 31st vote to repeal all or part of the Affordable Care Act. It is time to stop the tantrums, grow up and work together on Americans' number one priority—creating jobs and getting this economy turned around. I look forward to working with my colleagues and any colleague on either side of the aisle to focus on job creation, getting this economy turned around, and focusing on Americans' number one priority, which certainly is not fruitlessly engaging in partisan bickering.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma, a member of the Budget Committee, Mr. LANKFORD.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, Americans know more about this law now. Now that it's been sitting around for 2 years, we've had more time to be able to process it. Two years ago, the cost was estimated by CBO at \$800 billion. Now it's estimated at \$1.8 trillion. Americans were told that if you like your insurance, you can keep it. But now the administration estimates that up to 80 percent of the small employer plans will lose their grandfathered status and up to 64 percent of large employer plans will lose their grandfathered status and will have to be changed—of course at the end of 2013, after the election. They were told you can keep your doctor, but now we know that physician-owned hospitals, their practice days are numbered since physician-owned hospitals are punished to protect the bigger hospital companies.

We were told there are no new taxes on it, that this wasn't a tax bill. Now we know there are 20-plus different taxes on it. The supposed deficit reduction goes down in the days to come because there are so many new taxes that are built into it. Let me give you a couple of my favorites that are built into this: removing the deduction for people with high medical bills. Yes, there's a deduction if you have high medical bills. They move that cap up. So if you have high medical bills, you will pay more in taxes under this. How about the flexible spending account cap change? So if you have a special needs child that currently has special needs and you have that, your taxes will go up.

Next year, the Independent Payment and Advisory Board will be introduced. Their sole function is to deny payment for certain procedures, determine which treatments are too expensive.

Are there problems in health care delivery, yes—my family has multiple testimonies of that fact.

It is not believable to say health care will be so much better, more efficient, more effective,

if only we gave control to the Federal government.

Let's repeal this bad law and get busy writing healthcare reform that actually focuses on the patient, not the bureaucracy.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, with only 14 legislative days left before Congress lets out for the summer recess, I want to register my disappointment that my Republican colleagues are now willing to spend yet another hour—5 hours—for the 31st time in trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Instead of using this valuable time to put our country back on track by investing in job creation and stimulating economic growth, House Republicans have opted for divisive politics and partisan politics.

I believe enough is enough. The American people deserve better, and frankly, my constituents expect better. Not only has the Affordable Care Act been passed in both Houses of Congress and signed by the President, it was upheld by the highest court in the land nearly 2 weeks ago. By now, we should be moving forward and acknowledging the benefits of the Affordable Care Act, which the House Republican leadership cannot seem to grasp.

In my district alone, the reality is that 77,000 seniors receive affordable prescription drugs now. The reality is that 36,000 children in my district can no longer be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions.

We must get back to the work of the people. I am reminded, once again, that we have 14 days left until recess. Please let's get back to the business of the House, which is getting people back to work.

□ 1910

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the vice chair of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT. If one accepts all the contortions and flimsy reasoning of the Justice Roberts' opinion on the constitutionality of this law, it brings to light one important consequence: the President of the United States has not been straight with the American public.

See, the Court justified the individual mandate by calling it a tax. Now, I side with the dissent in this, but the Supreme Court has spoken, and the Supreme Court has now put the President in a tight spot. See, the President of the United States has said repeatedly that no family making less than \$250,000 will see any tax increase—not your payroll tax, not your income tax, not capital gains, not any tax. Even the OMB Director from this administration came to us and said there are no tax increases in this. Again and again the President has said this to us. But Justice Roberts said, yes, it is, it's a tax.

Look, Mr. President, it's time that you be straight with the American pub-

lic. We must repeal ObamaCare. It is a broken promise this country can't afford. If we don't, it will be the final nail in the coffin of a dynamic free enterprise system. And as Speaker BOEHNER once said, we must pull it out by its roots. And if we do, then we can plant the seed of real health reform in this country.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I think this whole conversation about tax or a penalty has gotten us a little bit into the silly season. If you go to the State of Massachusetts Web site and you look at the RomneyCare plan, what they say is that if you're able to afford insurance but decide not to get it, you will pay a penalty collected through the tax system—a penalty collected through the tax system.

ObamaCare is modeled on RomneyCare. And as Governor Romney understood at one time, if you say to people who can afford health insurance, it's okay that you don't get it; just show up at the hospital and everybody else will pay your bill through their higher premiums or taxpayers who have to pay uncompensated care to hospitals, that's free-riding on the system. That's freeloading on the system. That's saying to every other person, every other taxpayer that other people should be responsible for paying for the health care bill of the person who chooses not to get health care coverage.

Yes, if you can afford health care coverage but you decide to free-ride on other people, then there's a little penalty under this bill just as there is under Governor Romney's proposal—a proposal, by the way, that was once widely supported by our Republican colleagues when they talked about the importance of personal responsibility and the importance of making sure that people who are going to use the health care system took some responsibility for paying for their health care system.

I now yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I'd like to thank Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN.

Mr. Speaker, I rise again to oppose the Republicans' destructive attempts to repeal the health care reform law, the 31st such attempt in this Congress.

In Ohio already, the law has been making a difference for hundreds of thousands of people—middle class families—for over 2 years. Nearly 100,000 young adults in Ohio have been able to remain on their parents' health insurance plan. In the first 5 months of this year, over 700 seniors just in my home town of Toledo, Ohio, have collectively saved over a half a million dollars on prescription drug costs. Last year, 1.2 million Medicare beneficiaries in Ohio received free preventive care from their doctor, like mammograms and colonoscopies.

Insurance companies are now paying out over \$11 million in rebates to Ohio families because the insurance companies did not spend enough on paying for

health care. And over 4 million Ohioans, including 1.5 million women and 1.1 million children, have seen their insurance companies drop the lifetime and annual limits on care they had previously imposed.

The Republicans here in the House of Representatives are voting to take away all these benefits, and what is the Republican plan to replace it? Nothing. The Republican plan to replace it is nothing.

Mr. Ranking Member, I thank you so much for yielding me time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the chairman. In my 18 months here, one thing has been clear and, that is, just like so many bills, this bill isn't just about the underlying subject.

What this bill is about is controlling the individual. What this bill is about is government oversight, government control, government decision-making by bureaucrats hundreds of miles away from us over something that should be between us and our doctor.

I do agree with the gentlewoman from Ohio, this bill, this law has already made a difference. The facts are clear. ObamaCare will add trillions of dollars in new taxes, increase our \$16 trillion national debt by hundreds of billions of dollars, cause millions of Americans to lose their health insurance, destroy jobs, increase health premiums, impose new costs on States, and penalize American innovation. It's making a difference.

In Indiana—I also agree with the gentlewoman from Ohio—in Indiana, it shows just how harmful this law will be to the Hoosiers I represent. For people purchasing insurance in Indiana's individual market, premiums are expected to increase 75 to 95 percent from 2014 to 2020. Since passage of ObamaCare, my State has seen five insurance carriers withdraw from the individual market, resulting in less choice and less competition for Indiana consumers.

Indiana estimates that implementing and operating a federally mandated exchange would cost between \$10.4 million and \$18.3 million annually. Yes, Mr. Speaker, this law is making a difference—a bad difference.

As the House votes again to repeal President Obama's unpopular health care law, the American people must continue to make their voices heard. End of story.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ROKITA. Personal health care decisions should be made between individuals and their doctors.

ObamaCare passed more than 2 years ago. In the infamous words of the House leadership on the other side of the aisle at that time, we have now had a chance to see what's in it, and the fact remains: we do not like it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield at this time 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle keep saying we should focus on jobs. So let's look at how ObamaCare has impacted jobs and the economy.

A few numbers: 48 percent of business owners say the potential cost of health care coverage under ObamaCare is the reason why they're not hiring additional workers; 74 percent of small businesses said the law will make it harder to hire new employees.

States like my home State of Indiana would be hit particularly hard. Among the 21 new taxes found in ObamaCare, there is a 2.3 percent excise tax on the profits from medical device companies. Now, Indiana—and southern Indiana in particular—is home to dozens of these businesses. It employs over 20,000 Hoosier jobs in its medical device sector.

Now, because of the negative effect on our economy, we must start over and get health care reform done the right way—in the light of day, with bipartisan support, and with due deliberation. I hope we can do that. That's why I'm proud to cosponsor this first step, the Repeal Obamacare Act. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it too.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished lady from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, let's review the top 10 reasons why ObamaCare is wrong for women:

Higher insurance costs—that's already happening; 20 new taxes—that's coming; the likely loss of your current insurance—we know that's coming; losing dependent coverage—that's already happening; employers losing rights of conscience over morally offensive procedures—already in litigation; the overwhelming of the Medicaid programs that are in States that participate in the extension; loss of control over family health care decisions; doctor shortages—a real concern in my State of Wyoming; employers cutting back work hours for their employees to 25 hours a week to avoid the costly mandate; loss of child-only health insurance policies; and, now, \$210 billion added to the deficit over 10 years.

□ 1920

Mr. Speaker, Congress passed a bad law. The President signed a bad law. The Supreme Court upheld a bad law. Let's repeal it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield myself the balance of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, during the debate over passage of the health care bill, ObamaCare, we heard

a campaign of massive distortions. We heard it was going to create death panels—not true. We heard it was going to be a government takeover of health care. The independent PolitiFact called that the 2010 lie of the year. Now we hear it's going to wreak havoc on the economy, when the head of the Congressional Budget Office, our non-partisan referee, just said 2 weeks ago that they don't think this bill's having any significant impact on the economy. And on and on and on.

We heard from our Republican colleagues they were going to repeal and replace. We've now repealed this 31 times in the House—no replacement.

And what does that mean? That's the status quo. Our colleagues make it sound like the status quo is just great in the health care system when the insurance companies got to run the show, when they got to deny kids coverage even if they had asthma or diabetes and preexisting conditions, when they got to say you're not covered if you're 22 years old, you can't stay on your parents' health care bill, when premiums doubled between 2000 and 2006 while insurance company profits quadrupled. That's what the Republicans are proposing to go back to.

We continue to hear this distortion about Medicare. The reality is that we reduce some of the big taxpayer subsidies to the private Medicare plan. Some of them were being subsidized 140 percent of fee-for-service; average subsidy, 114 percent. We used some of those savings to eliminate the prescription drug doughnut hole that seniors fell into, to eliminate many of the copays for preventive care services.

Now, the Republican budget that every Republican in this House has voted for, that Mitt Romney has endorsed, they took all that \$500 billion in savings, every penny. But you know what? They didn't plow one penny back into strengthening Medicare benefits. They would reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole.

So that's what this debate is all about, trying to make sure that we provide the best health care we can at the best price. And to witness this effort to deny patients across this country the same kind of patient protections that Members of this Congress have, I think, is something that the American people, when they focus on this, as they clearly are, will clearly reject.

What we should be doing, instead of taking away from millions of Americans the kind of patient protections that Members of Congress have, what we should be doing is focusing on jobs and the economy. And it is a shame that, as we're going to vote tomorrow for the 31st time to repeal ObamaCare, we haven't had a single vote on the President's jobs initiative, an initiative that he brought before this body last September. He was at the podium where the presiding officer stands now. He asked Congress to pass his jobs initiative. Not a single vote on that, and

yet here we are, our 31st vote to repeal the kind of patient protections that Members of Congress enjoy, repeal them for the American people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that our colleagues will reject this effort. I know the American people have already made it clear through their voices and their response to surveys that they want to move on. They want to move on. They want to deal with jobs, and they want to deal with the economy, and they want to end the political charades.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself the balance of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, here's why we're doing this. If the facts that we now know today about this law were available when this law was being debated, there's no way this would have become law. This is effectively a government takeover of 17 percent of our economy, the health care sector. It was sold on a number of promises by the President that are now broken promises.

Taxes? There are 21 tax increases in this law, 12 of which hit people who are low- and middle-income earners.

Do you remember the line: If you like the health care plan you have, you can keep it? Completely not true.

What about the idea that this is going to lower health care premiums? They've been going up ever since the law passed. They're going up next year. They're going up even more.

Here's the fear. What we worry is going to happen, what is happening, is you're going to have what we call BUCAA, about five health insurers left: Blue Cross, United, Cigna, Aetna, and Anthem. That's the big joke in Washington. You'll have about five big, massive health insurers who are de facto public providing government extension companies like your utility company, except they're going to be controlling your health care.

People say we should focus on jobs instead of this bill. This is about jobs. The CBO is telling us it could cost us 800,000 jobs.

I remember talking to an employer in southern Wisconsin not too long ago, family business, a big family business, a private business. The woman who runs this business, whose grandfather founded it, had tears coming down her face because she provides health insurance for her employees at about \$17,000 per year for a family plan. She's proud to do it.

Her competitors notified her at one of her trade association meetings—they're publicly traded—that they're going to have to dump everybody in ObamaCare and just pay the \$2,000 per person fine; \$15,000 difference, per person, between herself and her competitors.

She was telling me that she felt she had no choice but, when the time came, to dump her people into ObamaCare.

That's what's going to happen in this country: People will get dumped into ObamaCare; ObamaCare will underpay providers; providers will go out of business; they'll overcharge the private sector; and we'll get a vicious cycle.

Here is the awful irony about this. We can have affordable access to health insurance for everybody in America, including people with pre-existing conditions, without this government takeover. That's why we do believe in replace. That's why we advocated then, and we continue to advocate today, for patient-centered health care reforms.

Deal with the discriminatory tax treatment on health care. Get transparency in price, quality, and outcome so people can really shop. Have pooling mechanisms so people can bulk buy health insurance.

Help those with preexisting conditions. Save Medicare and Medicaid by harnessing the power of choice and competition. Have the providers compete against each other for our business as patients, instead of hoping that the whims of some government bureaucrat will favor us when they make their next price controlling and rationing decision.

We can do better than this.

Here's ultimately why we're doing this, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago we had two chances to repeal and, therefore, replace this law. Now we have one. The Supreme Court upheld this law. That doesn't make it good policy.

The one chance left—and yes, this is the 31st time. And I fear we're going to have to do it the 32nd time, because the one chance left is that the American people, through their elected representatives, through the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the President, has one more chance before this law is actually implemented in 2014 to repeal this law and replace it with true patient-centered health care reform, and that is why we're doing this today.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. With regard to the remarks of a previous speaker in the debate, the Chair would remind Members that it is not in order to suggest dishonesty on the part of the President, such as stating that he was not being "straight with us."

□ 1930

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support this legislation to repeal the new health care law, which will shrink jobs, increase taxes and limit Americans' freedoms.

Although the Supreme Court has delivered its decision on ObamaCare, it is the people whose verdict counts the most, and the American people have consistently rejected this costly and ineffective government takeover of the health care sector. They realize that

the law fails our families, drives up the cost of health care, undermines the doctor-patient relationship, tramples on the religious liberties of millions of Americans, and vastly expands the role of the Federal Government. After the Supreme Court decision, we now know that ObamaCare is a massive tax hike on the middle class.

While the Supreme Court may have declared the law constitutional, that does not mean it is good policy for the American people. ObamaCare forces millions of Americans to abandon their current health care plans and to give up the physicians of their choice. A recent Reuters poll found that 56 percent of respondents oppose ObamaCare and that 61 percent oppose the individual mandate. With the costs and massive middle class tax increase this law imposes, these polls, frankly, are not a surprise. This massive tax hike on the middle class must be repealed. Only when ObamaCare is fully repealed can we enact real reforms that reduce health care costs without restricting the rights of Americans.

One reform Congress should consider to lower costs is medical liability reform. Medical liability reform will reduce the cost of health care by decreasing the waste in our system caused by defensive medicine. This practice occurs when doctors are forced by the threat of lawsuits to conduct tests and prescribe drugs that are not medically required. According to a Harvard University study, 40 percent of the medical malpractice lawsuits filed in the United States lack evidence of medical error or of any actual patient injury. Many of these suits amount to the legalized extortion of doctors and hospitals. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that lawsuit abuse reform would save taxpayers \$48 billion over the next 10 years.

The American people do not want ObamaCare. As their Representatives, we must repeal ObamaCare and enact real health care reforms that lower costs, increase access to health care, and preserve the fundamental freedoms of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This has been an unusual debate in Congress over an extremely important matter. What we have witnessed and listened to today for the 31st time is something that I would like to spare our conservative friends the heavy responsibility of trying to go back to their districts to explain.

I would like them to not have to explain why they voted to allow insurance companies to deny coverage for 17 million children with preexisting conditions. I would like them not to have to explain why they voted to kick over 6.5 million youngsters up to age 26 off their families' insurance policies.

I do not want my dear friends on the other side of the aisle to have to explain why their community hospitals

will again have to provide free care to people without insurance and to pay for the medical costs of the uninsured. Medical providers, of course, pass these costs on to private insurers, which pass them on to families, increasing the premiums, on average, of about \$1,000. You can tell families paying this hidden tax why they want to impose it. I don't want them to have to try to explain that.

I don't want my conservative friends in this body to explain to the 13 million Americans that they won't receive \$1.1 billion in rebates this summer from health insurance companies that have overcharged them.

It goes on and on.

We don't want anyone here to have to explain to the 105 million Americans who will have to face a lifetime limit on their coverage why they would want to allow insurance companies to deny them coverage once they get sick.

Then, of course, there are the pre-existing conditions that are an excuse to, first of all, not insure for health insurance and, in addition, to deny insurance once they have it if they feel that it is a long-term illness.

We don't want any of our conservative friends to leave the House and to have to go home to explain to the 360,000 small business employers who use small business health care tax credits in order to help them afford health insurance for 2 million workers that they will not get it any longer.

Finally, we don't want our conservative friends to have to explain why this bill promotes the fiction that repealing the Affordable Care Act won't increase the deficit.

We can't keep doing this. I hope nobody is thinking about 32 or 33 times. There has been no comparable debate over a major piece of legislation that has been through this kind of tortured process in recent memory.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LUNGREN), who is a distinguished and senior member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. RYAN, has outlined in much detail how the current law—some call it ObamaCare, and some call it the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010—does not do what it claims to. In fact, it does not protect the patient, and it does not provide affordable care.

He also pointed out that, when this bill was argued on this floor and in the other body, it was denied time and time again that it was a tax. We recall the President of the United States on several public occasions denied it was a tax. Yet he had his administration argue before the U.S. Supreme Court on the question of constitutionality that it was a tax.

□ 1940

The American people view the Federal Government as an entity. What have they seen with respect to this as it went from the executive branch to the legislative branch to the judiciary branch? They find that they were played. They find that what they were told at one point was not that which it was at the other point.

If you look at the Supreme Court's decision, they had to first consider whether this was a tax under what's known as the Anti-Injunction Act. The Anti-Injunction Act essentially says you can't contest a tax until it has been visited upon you. The question was, since the individual mandate, conceived as a tax, doesn't come into effect for some time, how could it be before the Court? The Court said, for purposes of standing, it is not a tax. Then they went and analyzed the individual mandate and said, Is it constitutional under the Commerce Clause? No. Is it constitutional under the necessary and proper clause, or the Spending Clause? No. But then they said, We will interpret this mandate, this penalty, as a tax for purposes of constitutionality as argued by the administration, which had denied it when it was arguing that case here in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Is it any wonder people are cynical about this? Is it any wonder that people begin to lose their confidence in a government that will not present facts consistently to them? I will not say there were any intentional lies made, but I will say that the American people have to question if they have confidence in their government when they say one thing at one time and say another thing at another. In fact, now by virtue of the Supreme Court decision, this is the largest single tax on the middle class of America in history. That's what we're talking about.

Can we do better? We believe we can. We believe that you can provide affordable health care for the American people without the largest single middle class tax in the history of the Nation, which puts the Federal Government in the position of being between the patient and the doctor. It is the antithesis of patient-centered health care.

That's why we're here. We're not here because we believe the present system is perfect. We think it is broken. The status quo is not acceptable. But we believe that this bill, ObamaCare, that is before this Congress right now is unacceptable to the American people because it exacerbates the problems that we find in our health care delivery system. That's why we're here.

The fact of the matter that we've voted several times to repeal it and have yet to be successful is no reason for us to give up. We are standing here for the American people against the largest middle class tax increase in the history of the United States, and we will not stop until we are ultimately successful.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to assure my dear

friend from California, a former attorney general of his State, that the Supreme Court has made more decisions that I don't like than he doesn't like, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, rather than get into the Commerce Clause, ruled it a tax. I'm sorry he did that. I wish he had done it my way. You don't like the way that he did it.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the former chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans' 31st attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker, you don't have to be a policy wonk to know that the U.S. economy is still struggling to rebound. Millions of Americans are still unemployed or underemployed. That this Congress has not spent every single day of the last year and a half fighting to put people back to work is unconscionable. And now, instead of fighting for good-paying American jobs, Republicans are launching their 31st attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

First, the Republicans said the law was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court said they were wrong. Next, Republicans said the law was too expensive. The Congressional Budget Office said they were wrong. Now Republicans say the law will raise taxes on millions of middle class families. The Urban Institute says they are wrong, estimating that a mere 3 percent of Americans under 65 will face the choice between purchasing insurance and paying a penalty.

Mr. Speaker, let's review what the Affordable Care Act actually does.

We know it extends health insurance to 32 million uninsured Americans, which will prevent the unnecessary deaths of 45,000 people who die each year because they lack health insurance.

We know it will enable millions of Americans with preexisting medical conditions to get insurance. This has gotten publicity.

Also, every middle class family today is one cancer diagnosis away from bankruptcy. Fifty-five percent of all personal bankruptcies are caused by health care emergencies; and 75 percent of these bankruptcies are of people who had health insurance, but health insurance that proved inadequate to cover an expensive disease like cancer.

By preventing insurance companies from denying coverage for preexisting conditions and by eliminating the annual and lifetime caps on coverage found in most current policies, the Affordable Care Act will guarantee that middle class families will no longer have to fear going broke because of an expensive illness.

Despite all of the benefits of this law, Republicans have decided the whole law must go. Fine, they want to repeal and replace. Replace it with what?

What is the Republican plan to stem the ever-rising cost of health care in this country and to reduce out-of-pocket health costs? What is the Republican plan to help millions more Americans gain access to health insurance? What is the Republican plan to end discrimination in the insurance market for women, for those with preexisting conditions, for those who are sick and going broke with medical bills and those who die because of lack of care? There is none. The simple truth is that the Republicans have no plan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to do something new, to try something novel. Instead of going to their familiar well of election-year politics and a steady stream of "no," let's try to work together. Let's not turn a blind eye on the problem and hope it goes away. Let's not be indifferent to 45,000 unnecessary deaths of Americans every single year.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this repeal bill so that we can move on to fighting for American jobs, and we can move on to assuring the middle class that they won't go broke because of an expensive illness and to assuring 30 million Americans that they can get health insurance when they need it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), a respected member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the esteemed chair of the Judiciary Committee for yielding time to me, and I appreciate this issue being brought to the floor.

I would announce, Mr. Speaker, that this is a subject matter, the full 100 percent repeal of ObamaCare, that I have worked on now for over 2 years on the repeal. When we saw this pass, it passed the House for the first time on November 7, 2009. That was a long and difficult day here in this House of Representatives. It came back through for a final passage by legislative shenanigans, by packaging up the reconciliation along with an earlier piece that went through by requiring a 60-vote, filibuster-proof majority that took place for a time in the Senate and came to this House under unprecedented terms, Mr. Speaker.

We saw the American people rise up. They didn't just jam this Capitol. It wasn't just 10,000 plus or tens of thousands of people that came here to say, Keep your hands off of our individual American freedom and liberty and health care. It was tens of thousands of people that came here that said, Let's respect the Constitution; let's respect fiscal responsibility; let's respect individual rights; and let's respect the American people.

Through that period of time, over this last 2-plus years, and a night I couldn't sleep after this finally passed on about March 21 or so, I got up and wrote a repeal. The language for that is in this bill, most of it intact.

I'm glad we're at this point, Mr. Speaker, because it says that this

House of Representatives has reflected the will of the American people. It reflected the will of the American people in the elections a year ago last November when we saw 87 new freshman Republicans come here to this House of Representatives, and every single one of them ran on the full 100 percent repeal of ObamaCare. Every single one of them voted for the full 100 percent repeal of ObamaCare, and every single Republican Senator, 47 of them, voted for the full 100 percent repeal of ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, the next step is this next November when I believe there will be a change-out in the United States Senate that reflects what happened here in the House so that the full will of the American people can be worked in this body that is to be responsive to the American people.

□ 1950

While that's going on, this terminology that began the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, always understood to be ObamaCare, referred to himself as ObamaCare by President Obama on February 25 in the Blair House in the health care discussion that took place when the President interrupted Republicans 72 times—not that that's an issue, Mr. Speaker, but just for the record, he referred to it as ObamaCare.

Many of the Democrats have believed that it's pejorative, so they changed the name of it because nobody knew what the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was. They changed it to the Affordable Care Act.

Well, we know it is the Unaffordable Care Act. It's a couple of trillion dollars stacked on this heavy burden the American taxpayers have today of nearly \$16 trillion all together. It's the Unaffordable Care Act and, in fact, what it does is it reduces care and it reduces American freedom and liberty. When you think about the American people, how distinct and unique it is to be an American, what makes us different? We come from a lot of places on the planet. We have the vigor of the American people here, and it's totally unsuitable to be saddled by this unconstitutional takings of American liberty.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentlewoman from Texas, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Michigan, and I thank this House.

I am reminded of the Declaration of Independence that calls upon this great Nation to pursue life and liberty with certain inalienable rights, as I paraphrase it. I don't know what the answer is to my friends on the other side.

I don't know what the answer is to those who are languishing in the State of Texas when we have our Governor rejecting Medicaid and politicizing it by, in fact—in the ObamaCare plan the

Federal Government sought to force the States to expand Medicaid. He says, in repeating, that the gun to our heads has been removed—certainly, a personal statement by this Governor.

I asked him whether or not he has asked 357,000 young people in the State of Texas, who actually are on insurance plans because of this bill. I wonder, has he asked the 3 million children that have benefited in the State of Texas since 2010, boys and girls like these little ones who are seeing doctors now for the first time.

What next, is the question. Maybe this little one, who needs to have doctors' appointments.

I would like to know, has he responded to the fact that our plan, the Affordable Care Act, reduces the deficit by \$143 billion. Has he responded to the fact that 5.3 million seniors have saved \$3.7 billion in part D, or does he realize that health care costs have been halved to 3.9 percent now after this legislation was passed, the Affordable Care Act, because before it was 6 percent and over. I call ObamaCare LeRoy care, Maria care, senior citizens' sick care, nursing home care. That's what it is.

Does he realize that the American Cancer Society said this organization was looking at the ruling on Medicaid and is concerned that the decision may limit the expansion of quality coverage to some of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. That is what the Governor of the State of Texas has done and many others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Finally, Mr. Speaker, these soldiers who are coming home, who lose TRICARE, are the very people in the State of Texas whom we want to salute and honor. They will come home. Their families will need the Affordable Care Act. Thirty percent in the 18th Congressional District in Houston, we will lose this; \$1.74 trillion in costs in health disparities, health disparities, death, and disease because we are losing the Affordable Care Act.

What is next? What is your answer?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in vehement opposition to H.R. 6079, the "Repeal Obamacare Act of 2012."

This is a colossal waste of time and resources—this body should be focused on fostering an economic climate that promotes job creation—not settling old grudges.

The health care overhaul signed into law in March 2010 through two separate acts—the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PL 111–148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (PL 111–152)—remains the signature legislative achievement of the Obama administration. Otherwise known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or "Obamacare" by its detractors, the laws have been the main target of Republicans since taking control of the House in 2011.

But on June 28, 2012 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the health care law, essentially by affirming the govern-

ment's power to require that Americans have health insurance or pay a financial penalty. In a 5 to 4 decision, the Court ruled that the law's "individual mandate" requirement that individuals maintain health coverage or pay a penalty falls within Congress' power to tax. The justices also ruled, however, that states may opt out of the law's expansion of the Medicaid health care program without losing all of their federal Medicaid funds.

This bill repeals the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PL 111–148, PL 111–152). The measure also contains a number of "findings" detailing the rationale for repealing the law, including the argument that the overhaul fails to lower health care costs and instead raises the cost of coverage for millions, jeopardizes many Americans' ability to keep their current health care coverage, and "imposes 21 new or higher taxes" on individuals and businesses.

The findings also claim that the board created by the law to make cost-cutting recommendations if Medicare spending exceeds target growth rates would limit seniors' access to care, and that the law "expands the role of the federal government in funding and facilitating abortion and plans that cover abortion."

Texas is one of those states that has vehemently vowed to opt-out of the law expansion. This is a devastating decision for the 6.2 million people, including 1.2 million children, who lack health insurance. Texas has the largest percentage of people without health care than any other state. In my congressional district in Houston, 30 percent of the population is uninsured. It is my goal to continue to push Texas government to help ensure affordable and decent healthcare for those that so desperately need it.

The major provisions of the law will take effect within the next two to seven years (2014–2019). States will only spend roughly 5 percent for new Medicaid funding. This is especially true for states, like Texas, with low Medicaid coverage. This is because a large share of new enrollees will be financed by federal spending. The State of Texas may see a reduction of about 1.4 million uninsured individuals compared to the national baseline. To say the least, the state of Texas is one state that will greatly benefit more from reform than most other states.

The repeal of the ACA will eliminate patient protection provisions, which this one provides equitable and fair services to businesses and consumers.

Estimates by the Kaiser Family Foundation determined roughly \$1.3 billion in rebates to consumers and businesses by this year in August. This is one of many definable benefits within the ACA. The State of Texas will receive roughly \$127 million in total rebates in the individual market plans, \$28 million in small group market plans, and \$30 million in large group market plans.

As part of the patient protection provisions drawn out within the ACA, insurance companies are required to issue a rebate if they did not comply with the Medical Loss Ratio provision within the ACA. The Medical Loss Ratio is calculated by dividing health care claims and quality improvement expenses by the insurers' premium income minus taxes and regulatory fees. Insurers for individual and small group markets must spend at least 80 percent of their premium income on health claims and improvement activities.

Insurers for large group markets must spend at least 85 percent of their premium income on health claims and improvement activities. This basically entails that if an insurance company pays \$70 for every insurance claim and quality improvement activity but collects \$100 in monthly premiums, they have a MLR of 70 percent.

This means that the company has 30 percent left over to spend on administrative costs, marketing, and other functional activities. As a result of the ACA, insurance companies can only spend 20 percent on such marketing and administrative activities. Therefore, the company has to issue a 10 percent rebate to consumers and small businesses in individual or small group market plans in the example above, or a 15 percent rebate back to the consumer or businesses in large group market plans.

It is yet to be determined if these rebates will either be refunded as a decrease in premium amount or issued directly back to the employer. Additionally, it is not an estimate based on the experience of an individual enrollee or group. Instead, MLR rebates are based on an insurers' overall compliance with applicable MLR standards in each state it operates.

The most vulnerable (or use low-income adults) citizens are now able to access affordable health insurance. Eliminating a more organized and competitive market for individuals to buy health insurance. Reduce health disparities between different socioeconomic and cultural communities can change to communities of color.

The United States spends more on healthcare costs than any other developed country. The ACA helps many small businesses be more competitive by reducing the cost burdens through tax subsidies. The last sentence here is already identified in the key points. But the first sentence may help emphasize why it should not be repealed.

It is time for Republicans to get to work on jobs and to end outsourcing instead of voting for the 31st time to take patient protections away from Americans.

The GOP will vote to take away patient protections for Americans that they already enjoy as Members of Congress—in order to protect their friends in the insurance industry:

Up to 17 million children can no longer be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition, 6.6 million young people have obtained insurance through their parents' plans, 5.3 million seniors have already saved \$3.7 billion on prescription drugs, 105 million Americans no longer face lifetime limits on their insurance coverage.

President Obama has promised to veto the Republican bill to repeal patients' rights:

"The last thing the Congress should do is refight old political battles and take a massive step backward by repealing basic protections that provide security for the middle class. Right now, the Congress needs to work together to focus on the economy and creating jobs."

The President is right. Enough is enough. It is time to act to put people to work and strengthen the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. ADAMS), a distin-

guished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6079, Repeal of Obamacare Act.

Along with many Americans, I was disappointed that the Supreme Court did not strike down the law, but the Court did rule that ObamaCare is a tax, a tax on all hardworking taxpayers, including middle-income taxpayers.

Let's go back for a moment to when this bill was passed. In 2010 President Obama said if you like what you have, you can keep it. We now know that isn't true. He also said health care costs would go down, and again not true because health care costs are rising. They have gone up.

He also said on numerous occasions that this is not a tax. It's a penalty. Well, the Supreme Court has spoken, and there is no denying now that it is a tax on all hard-working taxpayers.

We all remember former Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI famously saying, we have to pass a bill so that you can find out what is in it. The 111th Congress passed a bill ignoring the will of the American people. After the bill was signed into law, Americans across this great Nation did find out what was in the bill and, guess what, they didn't like it.

Across the country, Americans showed their displeasure with Congress at the ballot box. With their votes, they demanded Congress listen to them and repeal ObamaCare. Even today ObamaCare is less popular than it was the day my Democrat colleagues passed it. It's not hard to figure out why the American people don't like ObamaCare.

This is a law that takes \$500 billion from Medicare, a law that will lead to the rationing of care for our seniors, and a law that adds job-killing taxes on individuals and small business when our economy is hurting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Florida an additional 15 seconds.

Mrs. ADAMS. Furthermore, the individual mandate is the largest tax increase on Americans in American history, the largest tax increase. It is time my colleagues on the other side of the aisle join us in repealing ObamaCare and its taxes.

I may not have been here when Congress passed ObamaCare, but I was sent by my constituents to Washington to repeal it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I would remind my distinguished friend from Florida on the Judiciary Committee that ObamaCare extends Medicaid and does not cause anybody to lose any insurance if they already have it.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Los Angeles, California, MAXINE WATERS, who has worked with us on so many progressive causes.

Ms. WATERS. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for the time.

I rise to oppose H.R. 6079, the Republicans 31st attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

This bill is ridiculous. It is as ridiculous as the previous 30 votes to repeal health care reform. It is ridiculous because this bill is going nowhere. It will not be taken up by the Senate, and even if it were to pass the Senate, the President would veto it.

Every day people die from preventable and treatable diseases. Every day almost 50 people die of HIV/AIDS, more than 1,600 people die of heart disease and more than 5,000 people are newly diagnosed with diabetes. Yet the Republicans are trying for the 31st time to deny Americans access to preventable health services and treatment for these conditions.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, more than 6 million young adults under the age of 26 now have health insurance through their parents' plan. Many of these young people just graduated from college. They are worried about finding jobs and paying off their student loans. Yet the Republicans are trying for the 31st time to take away their right to insurance coverage.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, up to 17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by their insurers. Yet Republicans are trying for the 31st time to return to the days when these children could not get health insurance.

The bill on the floor today is a political charade. It is not going anywhere, and it is wasting our time when we should be focusing on jobs and our economy.

I urge the Republicans to stop this charade, withdraw this bill, and move on to the pressing issues facing this country. As a matter of fact, Republicans are forever talking about saving the taxpayers' money.

You are wasting the taxpayers' money. Look at the energy costs, look at all the man-hours and the personnel time that's being spent on this floor. Look at all these young people who should be home with their families. Look at the costs that you are incurring with this charade.

Stop it. It is ridiculous. It is not going anywhere. Mr. LUNGREN said you had made a few attempts. No, let me remind you again: 31 attempts.

It is ridiculous, it is outrageous, it's a charade and you should stop it.

□ 2000

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who was a distinguished jurist before he became a Member of Congress, and then a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOHMERT. I can verify that there are people who have already lost their insurance because of ObamaCare. It has happened. It was not and is not

true that if you like your insurance, you can keep it. People have already lost doctors who were assured if you like your doctor, you can keep him. That was simply not true.

We were told there would be no tax. And we know from the Supreme Court that's not true. And in fact, in the bill itself one of the most devastating things coming from people who say they want to help the working poor, if you're a single individual and you're making 133 percent of the poverty level, if you're making \$14,000 and you can't afford a \$12,000 health insurance policy, you're going to be fined 2.5 percent over the next 3 years. It will build to 2.5 percent. It is a tax. It will devastate. If you make \$40,000, a family of four, five or six, \$1,000 fine because you can't afford a \$12,000 policy. That, on top of the government running everything in this \$2,500 bill. That's why we've got to repeal it—for the good of the people.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to tell Judge GOHMERT that there isn't one American in this country that has lost their insurance because of ObamaCare. Not one.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I appreciate the time.

I was a history major in college, and oftentimes I'm in this Hall and I think about the history. We've been in this Hall for nearly 150 years. And I think back. When there was an attempt to pass Social Security, the Republicans were against it; and they're still against it. They want to give it to Wall Street and let it be invested. And then the great next major historical social advance in our country's history was Medicare. And the Republicans were against it. And now they're against the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

It seems what's happened is every Republican voted against it. Every Republican lines up, saying ObamaCare, and talking about Speaker PELOSI. They're lined up pretty well like ducks at the Peabody Hotel going in a line to the fountain. And Democrats, on the other hand, are concerned about children and women and life and the deficit in the long-run because of health care. And it seems like there's a continual battle in this House between people who look out for the haves and the other group that looks out for the haves who have conscience or vision and the have-nots. And I was taught well by my parents, I believe, and it was to always look out for people who needed something and you could help.

Daniel Webster's words are inscribed in this Capitol, right in this Hall, about doing something worthy to be remembered. That's what we're here for. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is something worthy to be remembered: to care for and help people survive. Next month, it's going to provide \$1.1 billion for over 12 million peo-

ple who have been overcharged by their insurance companies.

President Obama said this was insurance reform on steroids. It is. You want the insurance companies to run your life? Well, for you 12.5 million people that are going to get \$1.1 billion back, this is just the beginning of something great when you have some controls over the insurance company.

I'm appreciative of doing something worthy to be remembered.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to close on this side, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield the balance of my time to JOHN GARAMENDI of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank the Members of this House for what is an extraordinary debate—a debate of which there is a lot of false information.

I was the insurance commissioner in California, and I can talk about these insurance issues forever. But what I would really like to focus on is the fact that the law that is in the land today really helps people. It would help people like my deceased sister-in-law, a juvenile diabetic. She spent the last 10 years of her life struggling to get insurance, which she couldn't get because she had a preexisting condition. That won't be the case in the future for those with juvenile diabetes. They'll be able to get insurance. They'll be able to get it through an exchange in their States—at least those States that have it—at an affordable cost. And if they don't have the income, they'll have a subsidy to buy the insurance.

It will help people like the son of my chief of staff, who was born with kidney failure. He had insurance from conception until hours after he was born. But the insurance company dropped him. That won't happen any more because children throughout this Nation will be able to stay on their parents' policy because of this law.

It will help people like my daughter, who turned 21 and the insurance company that had covered her for 21 years dumped her. Because of this law, she is now on my policy—and for 17 million other young adults who have insurance as a result of this law.

I can talk forever about the way in which the insurance companies discriminate based upon age, sex, preexisting conditions, and across this Nation millions upon millions of Americans were denied coverage, but are no longer because of the Patients' Bill of Rights.

This is insurance reform on steroids. And I wish I had this law available to me when I was insurance commissioner in California. This is a good law. This is a very, very good thing for Americans.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN), who is a member of the Fi-

nancial Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

If there's anything that we have learned, Mr. Speaker, over the last several years as we've debated the President's health care plan, it is that it's been a mirage, and it has been built on a series of one broken promise after another.

The President told us that we would be saving \$2,500 a year per household if we passed his health care bill. But the sad reality is that Americans' health insurance premiums have increased by almost that amount, which means the President was off by a stunning \$5,000 per household. And Americans are pulling their pockets inside out saying, Mr. President, I don't have the money to pay \$5,000 more per year on my health insurance policy. Of course they don't. Because this has proved to be the crown jewel of socialism. That's what government health care is.

Senior citizens realized early on they had the most to lose by the President's health insurance policy because what they found from this bill, which has been commonly called ObamaCare, is that \$575 billion will be stolen away from them out of Medicare. And not only will they have \$575 billion less in Medicare; they're also looking at having to spend—senior citizens—out of their pocket \$200 billion more in increased taxes for Medicare. That's a big loss for America's senior citizens.

But it doesn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. Millions of Americans across the United States are now going to find out that the promise the President made that if you like your health insurance, you can keep it, that's a sham, too. Not only will you not keep it; millions of Americans are looking at being thrown off their current health care policy that they have from their employer.

□ 2010

Millions—millions—of Americans will no longer even have the option of their employer's health insurance plan. How do I know that? I talked to a job provider today, 400 employees. He told me he can no longer afford to provide health insurance because of all the new increased costs. He isn't the only one.

I talked to another employer today, Mr. Speaker, a woman. She had 250 employees. Now she's down to 90. She told me, if we can't repeal this bill, she'll have to actually let them go and they'll be down to 50. We have to repeal this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses create 7 out of every 10 new jobs, and they are the driving force behind this great Nation's economy, and we need these jobs as we attempt to rebound from a stubborn recession.

As chairman of the Small Businesses Committee, I constantly hear from small business owners that the burden of government regulations and taxes is too high. The health care law is perhaps the worst offender. The last thing the Federal Government should do is discourage job creation. Yet this massive health care law, with all its costs, mandates, regulations, and paperwork, does exactly that. Facing the expense and confusion this law creates, it's natural that small businesses decide to wait and see instead of invest and grow. The worst impacts of this law are yet to come.

We should be freeing up our small businesses to plan, grow, and hire. Heavy-handed government causes bold entrepreneurs to become cautious. Businesses are reduced from thinking about growth to thinking about survival.

Brian Vaughn, a small business man in Douglas, Georgia, planned to open a new store and reinvest profits. Testifying to our committee, he said:

I fear that neither of these dreams nor my plans to achieve them will be possible. In fact, my worry is that everything I have worked for will be for naught and may be wiped out by this new health care law.

Fortunately, we have a solution: Repeal this burdensome law. Stop it in its tracks before small businesses like Brian's are permanently harmed. Then pass commonsense solutions. We want real reforms that put patients in charge of their health and bring down costs.

This law is historic, but for all the wrong reasons. It reaches too far into the personal decisions of Americans, and it puts a heavy burden on our economy and small businesses. It's an example of Big Government at its absolute worst.

We have a responsibility to repeal and replace this intrusive law before any more damage is done. So let's vote this Big Government intrusion out and give small businesses a real chance to do what they do best, and that is create jobs.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. I rise in strong opposition to the bill before us today.

The Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding the health care bill was a historic win for this Nation's small businesses and their employees. Repealing the Affordable Care Act will be an enormous step backwards for 26 million small firms who not only want relief from high health care costs, but for Congress to focus on job creation.

This bill will not help a single small business secure a loan, break into new public markets, or invest in its operations. The other side acknowledges this legislation is going nowhere, just

like the previous vote we took at the beginning of this Congress.

Not only is the health care bill good law, it is good policy and has already led to major achievements for small companies since its enactment. The tax credits from the health care bill have saved over 300,000 small firms an average of \$1,400 on their insurance costs. The qualifying therapeutic discovery project program has invested \$1 billion in over 4,600 small innovative firms that are developing groundbreaking therapies and creating jobs. Small firms are receiving more value for their premium dollars because the 80/20 rule is now in effect. Because of this, not only is the small group market receiving \$321 million in rebates this summer, they are benefiting from lower premiums.

The future of health reform will bring expanded coverage for preventive services and new State health exchanges in 2014, allowing more employers to purchase affordable insurance. Soon, prior medical conditions will not bar anyone from obtaining coverage. As the implementation of health care reform continues, improving the health of the Nation's citizens will remain a priority for Congress going forward.

At a time when economic growth is critical, we should be focusing on how to help small businesses raise capital and create jobs. Today's bill does none of this. Instead, it threatens our Nation's job creators. It imposes a tax increase by eliminating critical small business tax credits, which have generated \$485 million worth of savings. By doing away with reforms that establish new health insurance markets, it would limit small businesses' ability to secure coverage and eliminate choices for entrepreneurs.

Small businesses already pay 18 percent more for coverage than their corporate counterparts. The loss of new safeguards would compound this problem. Because of health reform, insurers are no longer able to raise rates arbitrarily. Passage of this bill will strip new protections that provide bargaining power to small companies. Rather than making improvements to the law, the Republicans want to eliminate it without offering any alternatives.

While I agree that more can be done to make healthy living more attainable for Americans, voting for today's bill will not do that. One of the first votes I took this Congress was against Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I will continue opposing any efforts repealing a law that is beneficial to millions of small firms.

I urge Members to oppose the bill, and I urge the leadership to focus on meaningful ways to address this Nation's economic challenges.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend, the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. MICA of Florida.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I had not been privy to the prior debates of our discussion of the subject and the repeal legislation at hand. Is it appropriate and within the decorum of the House to refer to the legislation that is being considered repealed as repealing "ObamaCare"?

I don't want to inflict any disrespect on the office of the President. In order to keep in the decorum and respect for the office, may we refer to the President's plan for health care government takeover as "ObamaCare" or in another term?

□ 2020

What would be appropriate under the rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not render an advisory opinion.

Mr. MICA. But if I do refer to it as ObamaCare, I'm not out of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not render an advisory opinion.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. And I have been instructed by the staff that the proper term—or the title of the bill, I guess, Mr. Speaker, is Repeal of Obamacare, but I wanted to clarify that before I began.

As the Supreme Court rendered its decision, I had the opportunity to stand with some of my colleagues on the steps of the Court just across from the Capitol. I stood on the steps and spoke to the crowd gathered with other Members of Congress, and I said the decision by the Court to, again, uphold the law that we seek to repeal, the decision was basically the decision to tax the people. And the power to tax, it's been said, is the power to destroy.

I come before the House tonight and I'll state the same concerns I expressed on the steps of the Supreme Court. First, the power to destroy.

It's appropriate tonight that the Small Business Committee is here, chaired by the distinguished gentleman from Missouri. American small business has been stuck in neutral. The decision by the Court in upholding this law is taking small business, which is stuck in neutral, and actually putting it in reverse. It's putting it in reverse because it is one of the largest tax impositions—call it a mandate, call it a penalty—that you could impose on small business, which is the primary economic generator in the United States.

As a former businessman, I know the difficulty in trying to keep the door open, the lights on, the bills paid. This is probably creating the greatest uncertainty and the greatest depression in the creation of jobs since expansion of small business in the United States. So, indeed, the power to tax is the power to destroy.

Secondly, I stand in support of the measure to repeal ObamaCare, or the President's plan for health care, because of the impact on our senior citizens. The power to destroy something they sought as seniors and a promise from our government, Medicare, to cut half a trillion dollars from Medicare is not the way to go. That's why I oppose the President's plan and ask for its repeal.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, since I have two speakers on this side, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST).

Mr. WEST. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A U.S. Chamber of Commerce survey showed that 74 percent of small businesses contend that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will make job creation at their companies even more difficult.

A recent report by Bloomberg News noted that the President's health care law will impose an estimated \$813 billion in new taxes on job creators and middle class families, based on data from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. Additionally, the law and the more than 13,000 pages of related regulations issued before July 11, 2012, are causing greater uncertainty, slowing economic growth, and limiting hiring opportunities for the approximately 13 million Americans searching for work. Imposing higher costs on businesses will lead to lower wages, fewer workers, or both.

Half of all small business income would face higher taxes. According to Bloomberg News, analysis by the Joint Committee on Taxation also shows President Obama's plan for massive tax hikes "would mean higher taxes on 53 percent of business income reported on individual returns."

The ObamaCare tax is already holding back job growth in medical innovation, with venture capital investment and medical device firms down over 50 percent in 2011 compared to any previous 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, today I had 17 members of the South Florida Chapter of the Association of Builders and Contractors saying that this law is going to adversely affect their businesses. Roger Dunshee, of Twin Vee Catamarans in Fort Pierce, Florida, is considering who he will have to leave off of his insurance coverage or who he will have to completely get rid of from his business. David Carbone, president and CEO of St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach, is concerned about how he will be able to run the hospital and also the type of care he will be able to provide. Dr. Mark Powers of Orthopedic Specialists in Port St. Lucie, Florida, is concerned about what he will be able to provide as a small business owner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, this is not about taking anything away from the American people. We can keep what is good. But this is bad policy that had to be passed in order for us to find out what was in those 2,700 pages.

Let us do what is right for the American people. Repeal this onerous monstrosity that is nothing more than a tax law and develop a health care solution for which the American people can be proud.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to the Republican Affordable Care Repeal Act because it is an irresponsible approach that does nothing to address the rising cost of health care that our families and our businesses are facing today.

It is a fact that the fastest-rising cost for most U.S. companies is health care. Without the Affordable Care Act, overall health care costs will continue to rise even faster, costs that will be borne by both the public and private sector.

It is important to note that voting for this repeal bill will eliminate the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit. This tax credit currently allows small businesses to offset up to 35 percent of their health care insurance cost. Starting in 2014, the credit will increase to 50 percent of premium cost.

Small businesses have faced outrageous increases in their health care costs over the past decade. The Affordable Care Act helps reduce that burden and is already making a real difference in people's lives.

Nearly 2 million employees at 309,000 small businesses have taken advantage of the tax credit, receiving an average credit of \$1,400. This repeal bill will put a stop to this important small business tax credit. I want to make sure that we all understand that the repeal of the Affordable Care Act will result in a tax increase on small businesses, businesses which create almost two-thirds of all new jobs in this country.

Let's be clear what the Affordable Care Act does for people and for small businesses.

The Affordable Care Act prohibits health plans from imposing caps on lifetime and annual coverage; it bars cancellation of insurance policies; it guarantees free preventative care that lowers the cost of health care; it eliminates denial of coverage for preexisting conditions. And by eliminating this unfair practice, health care reform helps nearly one-third of uninsured, self-employed entrepreneurs.

But critics of the Affordable Care Act claim that they want to go back to the old system, a system where small businesses pay more on average for health insurance than large companies, yet receive fewer benefits; a system that had small business premiums rising 113 percent over the past decade; a system

where our country continues to lag behind other advanced nations in delivering timely and effective care; and a system where Americans spend twice as much as other nations on Earth but have worse health outcomes.

The Affordable Care Act protects the Nation's 26 million small businesses from unfair premium hikes and ensures that they have predictable and stable cost. Without the Affordable Care Act, out-of-control costs will only get worse, rising to \$4.4 trillion by 2018.

□ 2030

We cannot go back to business as usual. The Supreme Court has settled the issue of the law's constitutionality, and Congress should stop these election-year stunts.

This bill has no chance of being signed into law. We need to stop playing political games and focus on putting Americans back to work.

Instead of just saying no, Republicans need to work with Democrats to improve and implement a law that ensures health care is affordable and accessible to all Americans.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access.

Mr. WALSH of Illinois. I thank the chairman.

And to my colleague on the other side, the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit has proven incredibly ineffective. The GAO itself has said that it is much too complex; and like everything Washington does, its temporary nature has really done nothing to reduce the cost of health care for small business.

Mr. Speaker, my State of Illinois is hurting. Real unemployment has been above 11 percent for the past 3 years.

I've heard from employers throughout my district that they do not support the President's health care law. They do not support the more than 13,000 pages of new regulations. They're already buried under regulations. They don't support the 21 new taxes. They're already overtaxed. And they definitely do not support the increased health care costs. They've seen their health care costs rise at an unsustainable rate.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves: 74 percent of small businesses say the law makes it more difficult to hire additional employees.

Why don't my colleagues on the other side listen to the people who create jobs in this country?

Why do my colleagues on the other side always think they have all the answers?

It's time we listened. It's time we repealed ObamaCare.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, could I ask how much time we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 7¾ minutes.

The gentlewoman from New York has 8 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on average, small businesses pay more for health insurance than large firms for comparable policies, but receive fewer benefits. Prior to enactment of the ACA, 20 percent of consumers were in plans that spent more than 30 cents of every premium dollar on administrative costs, and an additional 25 percent were in plans that spent between 25 and 30 percent of every premium dollar on administrative costs.

The ACA included the medical loss ratio that requires the insurance company to spend at least 80 percent of small employer premium dollars on medical costs instead of administrative expenses. Is that bad for small businesses?

When Republicans were in control of both Chambers and held the Oval Office, they talked about this solution for nearly a decade, and yet nothing happened. In that time, small businesses saw their employees' premiums rise by an average of \$700 every single year.

Why should small businesses believe they can deliver on a promise this time?

So, finally, the law needs to be implemented. The most beneficial provision to small employers doesn't go into effect until 2014. The availability of State exchanges in 2014 could spur more small business owners to provide health benefits to employees.

For example, in California, just 32 percent of small businesses currently offer health insurance to their employees, but the number of those likely to offer insurance through exchanges jumped to 44 percent.

So don't repeal this legislation just for the sake of energizing the Republican base. You know that by enacting today and taking this vote this is going nowhere.

What we should be doing—and someone on the other side said that we should be listening to small businesses—yes, we are listening to small businesses, and what I hear from small businesses is that they are having trouble getting consumers through their doors, that they are having trouble selling their products, that they're having trouble accessing capital. Those are the obstacles that they are facing today, and that will prevent small businesses from creating jobs, and that is what this economy needs in order to get the economy growing again.

So repealing this today is not going to create one single job.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHILLING).

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, like many in Illinois' 17th District, I'm disappointed that the Supreme Court decided to uphold the President's health

care reform law. The Court ruled what we all knew from the beginning, but the President wouldn't acknowledge, the law's individual mandate is really a tax on the American people and businesses that create jobs.

Under this law, the health care costs remain too high. Government bureaucrats remain between patients and their doctors. Too many Americans remain unemployed, with national unemployment hovering above 8 percent for the last 41 straight months.

The law's medical device tax will continue to raise health care costs and limit the ability of facilities, like Cook Medical in Canton, Illinois, to expand and grow jobs. And the law's employer mandate will continue to force employers to choose between paying a penalty, increasing the number of employees eligible for health care coverage, replacing full-time staff with part-time employees, or laying folks off.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to raise taxes on working-class families or employers. We need to repeal this law and get to work on bipartisan health care reform that lowers costs and makes health care more convenient and more affordable.

I'm new to Congress, but I have a plan to address rising health care costs while ensuring those who need it have access to coverage. I urge men and women from across America to visit schilling.house.gov to take a look.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), the Small Business Subcommittee chairman on Agriculture, Energy and Trade.

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The ranking member just listed off many of the challenges the businesses face, and we agree. But let me add one more. A company in Pueblo, Colorado, PDI, employing better than 200 handicapped individuals, that company is threatening to be able to see their business shut down because of ObamaCare. They simply cannot afford it.

That is the challenge that small businesses across this Nation are truly facing, a \$2 trillion tax, a \$2 trillion tax when we need to be investing in things like competition. Let's create those opportunities, positive opportunities, through health care, allowing the marketplaces to work, ensuring that people have those opportunities to have preexisting conditions covered.

Let's let our children who are 26 years old stay on those policies, but let's bring competition to the market and have things like tort reform as well.

PDI and those handicapped individuals in Pueblo, Colorado, are counting on common sense, not politics as usual out of Washington, D.C., where one-size-fits-all, and Washington has all the answers. Let's not get between that pa-

tient/doctor relationship. The people are counting on positive action.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's decision to uphold President Obama's health care reform law has reinforced the need for Congress to repeal and to replace this law. No doubt, health care reform is important. Today, health insurance is far too expensive, and health care reform should lower costs and broaden access without compromising the quality of care.

I support tax incentives to help individuals buy health insurance, high-risk insurance pools for those affected with preexisting conditions, allowing small businesses to band together for the purchase of health insurance so that they can get the same discounts that large corporations receive, and medical malpractice reform to help bring health care costs under control by curbing the unnecessary and costly practice of defensive medicine.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act, to show the American people that we can accomplish meaningful health care reform without crippling the economy and bankrupting our Nation.

□ 2040

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the Chair how much time both sides have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Missouri has 4¼ minutes remaining.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Thank you to my fellow New Yorker.

I rise today opposed to the 31st edition of this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Just what are we doing here today on the floor of this House? Are we passing jobs bills that will help the middle class? No. Are we working together to help America recover from the recession? No. Are we passing a bill that has any chance of being signed into law? No. So what exactly are we doing?

Are we politically posturing during an election year? Yes. Are we voting to repeal a law that more Americans support than oppose without any hint of a plan for replacement? Yes. Are we voting to deny 6.6 million young adults health benefits under their parents' insurance? Yes. Are we voting to raise costs for some 5.3 million seniors who pay for their prescription drugs? Yes. Are we voting to deny 17 million children with preexisting health conditions the opportunity for coverage? Yes. Are we voting to take away free screening and preventative checkups? Yes.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can do better than this. Mr. Speaker, we must do better than this.

The Supreme Court—the highest court in the land, a conservative-leaning court—has ruled, and the debate has ended over the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Instead of repealing the health care bill for the 31st time in 19 straight months in a Congress that has done absolutely nothing to create jobs, isn't it time to move on to something—anything—that will help our struggling middle class?

Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of the games played on this floor. Let's end this debate and get back to work—work that will find us passing bills, that will help grow jobs, work that will find us working together to inspire a thriving middle class.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's unfortunate decision to uphold ObamaCare doesn't mean it's the right thing for this country. It's not. It was bad public policy when it was forced upon the American people 2 years ago, and it's bad public policy today.

Last Friday, the Department of Labor announced that millions are still out of work across this country and that businesses are still struggling to keep their doors open. It is unfortunate that this President doesn't seem to recognize that this law is hurting American workers and those looking for work. Businesses will be hit with more than \$500 billion in new taxes—and the Supreme Court has said what it is, a tax—a maze of burdensome red tape, and mandates that could cause the loss of 1.6 million additional jobs. We can't afford that.

And for what?—a law that puts government ahead of people, a law that consolidates power into the hands of a group of 15 unelected bureaucrats, a law that has already increased health care costs and will limit Americans' access to quality, affordable health care.

There is a better way forward.

This misguided law must be replaced with patient-centered reforms that allow families to make their own health care choices and to visit the doctors they want to visit. Health care decisions should be made at home, around kitchen tables all across the country, not in the back rooms on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need health care reform like this, but we do need health care reform. This law is not the answer. It's a Big Government power grab. That's what it really is. What history has shown time and again is that Big Government makes things more expensive, more bureaucratic, and less effective. It is time to repeal this law and to get our economy moving again and to get Americans back to work.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I continue to re-serve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Once again, I rise today to speak out against ObamaCare and why we must repeal it.

The Supreme Court's decision last month has verified that ObamaCare is one of the biggest tax increases in modern history. Furthermore, a board of 15 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats will now remain in place to determine the health care for millions of Americans while cutting \$500 billion out of Medicare for our seniors.

The American people now have a clear choice.

We in Congress can either support historic tax and spending increases, fiscal uncertainty, and unprecedented government overreach; or we can join together to fight to repeal this ObamaCare tax and work for real solutions while taking health care decisions out of the hands of government bureaucrats and putting them back into the control of doctors, patients, and their families.

By repealing ObamaCare, we will restore the doctor-patient relationship and protect our seniors from ceding this relationship to a board of unelected bureaucrats. Our system must not dictate to doctors how to provide care, force them to provide medications regardless of known complications and then make them liable with no limits or protections.

Reforming the health care system and ensuring patient-centered access to care is not a Republican idea or a Democrat idea. Rather, it is the obligation of all of us to the American people.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the Chair how much time is left on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEMING). The gentlewoman from New York has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Missouri has 30 seconds remaining.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentlelady from New York for her distinguished commitment and service to small businesses across America.

Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, a colleague rose to the floor and called this "socialism." It is not. Many have risen to the floor to talk about how this will impact negatively on small business. It will not.

I rise enthusiastically to oppose what is a political legislative act—the repeal of ObamaCare. It is really the Affordable Care Act by the statement of the United States Supreme Court. The statement of Justice Roberts, of which I read, indicates that, beginning in

2014, those who do not comply with the mandate must make a shared responsibility payment to the Federal Government.

That is what this is about—sharing and bringing about health care costs that will go down, not up.

To my small businesses, let me say how much we care for you. I have supported small businesses throughout my public life and before, and I would argue vigorously that this helps to ensure that you can keep employees and add employees.

In fact, between 2010 and 2011, health care costs dropped to 3.9 percent when it was above 6 percent—almost one half less than before the Affordable Care Act was passed. This, frankly, exempts all businesses fewer than 50 employees. That means some 96 percent of American small businesses will not even be impacted. For those that are, this legislation will provide \$40 billion in tax credits for small businesses to offer health care.

Now, in 2011, 360,000 small businesses have benefited from the health care tax credit—2 million workers. As well, you will be able to ensure with your health insurance that 85 percent of your premiums will go toward health claims and improvement activities, not to advertisement.

□ 2050

It entails that if an insurance company pays \$70 for every insurance claim and quality-improvement activity, you will get rebates, \$127 million in total rebates in the individual market, and \$1.3 billion, Mr. Speaker, to consumers and businesses.

The fact is this is the right thing to do. Support ObamaCare. Oppose the repeal. This is good for business.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 3, 2012.

Hon. RICK PERRY,
Governor, State of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

DEAR GOVERNOR PERRY: As you may know, the United States Supreme Court has upheld major provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) last week. Residents in the state of Texas will greatly benefit from its implementation, of which two provisions will directly impact Texans. This includes the Medicaid Expansion and the implementation of health insurance exchanges. I respectfully request that you charge, the Texas State Legislature and the Texas public health departments to begin implementation of the entire law.

Now that the decision has been made by the United States Supreme Court, it is now time to move past the partisanship and begin delivering affordable care to millions of Americans. Many provisions in the ACA will benefit all of Americans; however, these two specific provisions will greatly benefit our state. For instance, the Medicaid expansion will expand coverage to Americans who are below 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). Roughly 25 percent of Texans are below 100 percent of the FPL, which is higher than the national average. Those who are low income have less access to care, have poorer health outcomes and are at a higher risk of premature death. Our State has an obligation to ensure those who are most vulnerable do not prematurely die because they

lacked coverage, especially after the United States Supreme Court has ruled the law constitutional. Furthermore, a number of states have already expanded their Medicaid program, and I encourage you to move forward on expanding our program as well. Although the Supreme Court decision apparently permits a state to opt out, I am requesting that you choose not to, and take care of Texans in need.

The ACA also requires states to have their state-based health insurance exchanges running by 2014 and provide a progress report by 2013. Currently, our State of Texas has done nothing in exploring options. I encourage you to begin setting up our exchange for a number of reasons.

For one, many Americans and businesses find navigating private health care insurance plans complicated and confusing. Establishing our State-based health insurance exchange will provide a clear mechanism for many Texans and small businesses purchase affordable health insurance plans. This will greatly benefit those who are below 400 percent of the FPL.

As a Member of Congress, representing our great State, I have an obligation to do all that is possible to ensure that the laws are followed when enacted. Our Supreme Court has decided on the ACA and now it is time to move forward and begin with implementation. Our State has so much to benefit from implementing the law, and I know Texans will greatly appreciate your dedication to adhere to the law.

Very Truly Yours,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Member of Congress.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to close.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, with that, I am prepared to close.

What will small businesses lose if health care reform is repealed? Small business tax credits that save employers \$435 million in 2011 will be abolished. Insurers will be able to continue price-gouging their customers and denying coverage for preexisting conditions. Repeal will mean millions of families and employers will no longer receive the benefits of lower premiums on insurance company rebates worth over \$300 million this year alone.

I urge a "no" vote because the ACA was a step in the right direction. Without it, the self-employed and small business employees will continue to be uninsured at high rates with no hope of Republican action to fix the broken health care system.

Mr. Speaker, instead of holding this vote, we should be spending our time on targeted measures to help our Nation's small businesses grow and create jobs. Maybe what we should be doing today is debating the jobs bill that the President presented to us in the House of Representatives.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time, and I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the comments made by the gentlelady from Texas who claimed that 4 million small businesses are going to be able to take advantage of this tax credit and how much it was going to help.

We requested a GAO study and found that only 170 small businesses have even taken partial advantage of this

credit. This bill is grossly ineffective, it does not work, and it hurts small businesses.

I would urge my colleagues to vote to repeal this piece of legislation and help get this economy finally rolling so we can pass some real reforms when it comes to health care.

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

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I don't think I look much like Bill Murray, or have his wit, but I sure feel like him in his role in "Groundhog Day."

There are pressing issues facing our country—mainly the need to get our economy back on track and start creating jobs. But, my Republican colleagues refuse to allow us to focus on that vital priority.

Instead, we are here for the 31st time in this Congress to consider repeal of the health reform law.

Nevermind that the House already passed repeal of the health care law early in 2011 and that bill is still sitting in the Senate awaiting their consideration.

Nevermind that 29 other bills have repealed particular provisions of the law.

No, we are going to once again take the time of this Congress to pass a bill that doesn't need to be passed because my Republican colleagues are mad at the Supreme Court for upholding the law.

We know that House Republicans don't intend for the Senate to take this bill seriously because they are rushing this bill to the floor today before the Congressional Budget Office has even had the opportunity to provide a score for health reform repeal. With that analysis, we would know the cost or savings associated with health reform repeal. But, Republicans don't feel any need for being informed before they vote because they know they hate health reform and they'll vote to repeal it no matter what.

Well, with a Congress that behaves like this, none of us should wonder why our approval ratings are at 12%.

What my Republican colleagues steadfastly refuse to acknowledge is that health reform is already helping people and repealing it will have serious negative consequences for millions of Americans.

Should Republicans succeed in their blind drive to repeal health reform:

6.6 million young adults would lose the guarantee of being allowed to obtain insurance coverage on their parents' health insurance plans.

17 million children with pre-existing conditions could again be denied health insurance coverage.

105 million Americans would again be subject to lifetime limits on health insurance—which could stop coverage when they need it most.

12.8 million Americans who are due over \$1 billion in rebates from the health insurance industry this year would never see that financial relief.

The more than 5.3 million Medicare beneficiaries who have been helped with high drug costs would see that assistance disappear.

The 86 million people who have already received life-saving preventive benefits free-of-charge would lose access to that vital benefit.

The list goes on and on.

Repeal of ObamaCare is not what the American people want. When I go home, par-

ents thank me for health reform because their children who are recent college graduates have health insurance, their parents on Medicare saved money on their prescription drugs, and they know they will soon not be locked-in to their current job for fear of losing health coverage. When they talk to me about what Congress should be doing, they emphasize, jobs, jobs, jobs.

I agree with my constituents. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this senseless political stunt of a bill and I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to get on with the business that American's care about—jobs.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the flawed Obamacare law adversely affects American families, small businesses and millions of seniors. Even before the law is fully implemented, Obamacare already increases costs on hard-working American families and businesses. For example, healthcare premiums have already increased by \$1,200 for the average American family.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the individual mandate of the President's healthcare law is a tax. This tax will have tremendous consequences on individuals, working families, businesses, and local governments. In fact, the most recent Congressional Budget Office estimate indicates that the individual mandate will impose \$54 billion in new taxes on Americans over 10 years.

We have heard from many businesses across the country that the employer mandate will be devastating for them and their employees. For example, the employer mandate to provide healthcare coverage will penalize American firms by \$113 billion over 10 years and could eliminate 1.6 million jobs. At a time when the economy is still struggling to recover, we should be focused on reducing taxes on hardworking Americans and providing incentives for businesses to grow and create jobs.

That is why last week I authored H.R. 6048, the Healthcare Tax Relief and Mandate Repeal Act, with 125 of my colleagues, to repeal the Obamacare individual and employer mandates, providing relief for American families and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am also troubled by the Obamacare 2.3 percent tax on medical devices. Mound Laser and Photonics Center, headquartered in Miamisburg, Ohio in my district, specializes in laser-based micro and nano-fabrication. The majority of its workers have backgrounds in science and engineering, critical fields our country needs to compete in the global economy. Unfortunately, the company reported it was forced to lay off 10 employees due to the loss of business from one of its medical device clients.

Another company in my community, Ferno-Washington Inc., a global leader in manufacturing and distribution of professional emergency and healthcare products based in Wilmington, Ohio, says the tax increase will cause the company to scale back research, development, and production of new products, hampering the company's ability to compete. The executives at Ferno estimate the cost of the tax is equivalent to 23 jobs.

This Congress, I authored H.R. 1310, a bill to repeal this tax for first responder medical devices and co-sponsored a bill to eliminate this unfair tax altogether.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to impose extra burdens on American families and businesses when our economy is struggling to get back on track. I strongly support repeal of Obamacare and am committed to working with my colleagues to carefully and thoughtfully implement real healthcare reform.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act.

Last Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that, for the 41st straight month, we had an unemployment rate of above 8%. As a small businessman, this comes as no surprise to me. The President has done little to inspire confidence in job creators. From new, burdensome regulations and stifling tax hikes, the legislative agenda of this Administration's first two years is still wreaking havoc on the economy.

I say this just a day after the President reiterated his commitment to the notion that we ought to increase taxes to feed more big government, the same big government that has let our deficits spiral out of control and our credit rating downgraded.

We have much work to do to rein in government. Repealing this monument to bloated bureaucracy is but the first step we must take to signal to the private sector that success will not be punished.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the 31st attempt to roll back health care coverage for American families.

Before the bill was passed, the House and Senate debated it for well over a year. It was debated on the House and Senate floor, in several committees, in the media, in town halls, on the World Wide Web, in living rooms; indeed, it was hard to escape the debate during that time. The bills received dozens of votes, including committee votes. It passed the House and Senate. It was signed into law. Since then, it has continued to be debated; the House alone has devoted 43 hours of scarce floor time to it. Now, it is being implemented and American families are already benefitting from the law. It has been through the courts—all the way to the highest court—and it has been found to be constitutional. It has been upheld.

Instead of trying to accelerate our economic recovery, the primary concern of American families and businesses, we are spending hours of valuable time on the House floor debating yet again whether to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I would be enthusiastically supportive of a debate about whether to continue forward progress by moving toward a single payer system which would provide higher quality health care for everyone in the U.S. without paying a dime more than we are currently paying. That is a debate worth having. But today's debate is not about moving forward; it is about moving backward. We can't move forward with our eyes glued to the rear view mirror. This is not governance.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, three branches of the federal government now agree: the Affordable Care Act is a tax, and it falls to Congress to repeal this tax.

American families, employers, patients and providers have known this all along. CBO says the health care law will cost 800,000 American jobs. Taxpayers are footing more than a trillion dollar bill for the privilege of putting more Americans out of work. It is a tax on top of a tax.

How much more damage can this Administration inflict on the American economy? How much more uncertainty can our small businesses bear? What American senior citizen feels comfortable with handing over their health care decisions to an unelected board deep in a federal office or inflicting a \$500 billion cut to Medicare?

This law represents the most chilling powers of government: to tax as a form of interference with our freedoms, to get between Americans and their earnings at the same time it gets between Americans and their liberties. The taxes included in the ACA punish Americans for not doing something the government has decided to require.

We are here today to start a long, important conversation in Congress and in the nation about ridding ourselves of this law's dire consequences, intended and unintended. We will not settle the matter today, but it is vital that the people know we are working to strike down a tax we do not want, cannot afford and will not pay as a price for our freedom.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6079, the latest Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and block meaningful reform. I stand with the young people who can now find coverage under their parents' health insurance plans, Americans with pre-existing conditions who had been denied access to care, and senior citizens who cannot afford the sky-rocketing costs of medical treatments. Mr. Speaker, I stand with all Americans who will now begin to see the overall cost of health insurance go down.

The Affordable Care Act has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court as a constitutional law. I now rise to praise it as a wise and moral one, as well.

Access to quality, affordable healthcare is a basic right and is critical to the wellbeing of America, both today and in the future. This legislation addresses the needs of the millions of uninsured Americans, strengthens the Medicare system, and relieves all Americans of the growing financial burden of medical costs and insurance. Those who are attempting to obstruct healthcare reform are in effect sabotaging the health and financial security of my constituents and fellow Americans, and I cannot allow this repeal to pass.

In the 37th Congressional District of California, the benefits of the Affordable Care Act are undisputable. 23,000 children and 90,000 adults now have health insurance that covers preventative services with no co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles. 510 small businesses have received tax credits to help maintain or expand healthcare coverage for their employees. Healthcare providers in the district have also received \$3.4 million in Affordable Care Act grants since 2010 to support community health centers; to develop innovative, cost-saving healthcare delivery systems; and to train health professionals.

These statistics are not unique to my district, and similar success stories are emerging in all corners of the country.

Look, for instance, at how the healthcare law is benefiting young adults and children. Under this reform, young adults may stay on their parents' health insurance until their 26th birthday, which is especially critical when recent graduates and young adults are seeking employment. Young adults are the most uninsured group among all Americans, and without

this provision, 3.1 million young adults would be uncovered.

Before the Affordable Care Act passed, health insurance companies could also deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions, including common conditions like asthma. Healthcare reform corrected this unconscionable abuse, and its repeal would be a direct attack on the 17 million children who will now be protected from discrimination.

The concept of pre-existing conditions was also used to justify discriminatory policies that targeted women. Many women have been denied coverage or are charged at higher rates for conditions that include breast or cervical cancer, pregnancy, a history of a C-section, or having been a victim of domestic violence. I have a long history of supporting women's access to reproductive healthcare as well as a strong record fighting domestic violence. I am proud to support the Affordable Care Act, which gives women many of the rights and protections that I have fought for.

I would also like to take a moment to highlight how the Affordable Care Act helps American seniors by strengthening Medicare. 5.3 million seniors who used to fall into the "donut hole" Medicare coverage gap have already saved \$3.7 billion on prescription drugs because of healthcare reform, averaging \$600 per senior. The healthcare law will also completely close the "donut hole" by 2020. In addition, Medicare recipients are receiving a free annual wellness visit and coverage of key preventive services, meaning that seniors can access care before any problems escalate into costly and chronic conditions down the road. These services are possible because the Affordable Care Act has sparked a record-breaking crackdown on Medicare fraud, recovering more than \$4.1 billion in fiscal year 2011 alone.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act addresses serious problems that have been plaguing children, women, and seniors. Its reforms will even the playing field for anyone who wants quality health insurance and will help our country more closely resemble the principles on which it was founded.

Despite the unfounded claims that this bill will raise taxes for everyday Americans, the Affordable Care Act will bring significant and immediate savings to the middle class at a time when they need it most. The healthcare law will provide a tax cut that averages around \$4,000 for 18 million middle class people, and 12.8 million Americans will receive \$1.1 billion back in rebates by August. When insurance companies overspend on administrative costs and CEO bonuses, it is the middle class who pays.

Until now, everyday citizens have also had to subsidize the medical costs for a small number of people who can afford healthcare but choose to remain without coverage. These individuals force American families to pay an additional \$1,017 each year to compensate. The Affordable Care Act would impose a modest penalty, ensuring that those who do not purchase their own coverage do not cause spikes in the cost of others' insurance. Although opponents of the Affordable Care Act attack this "free-rider" penalty as an unfair tax, the truth is that the majority of Americans will never have to pay it and rather stand to benefit from lower insurance rates.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act was a long overdue bill that corrects deep injustices

in access to healthcare. Should the act be repealed, there is no planned reform to take its place. We would simply return to the same broken healthcare system and the same failed policies.

Many Americans view Congress as a system that is equally broken. They see that their leaders have an unprecedented opportunity for creating real and lasting change, and instead that chance is being squandered for short-sighted political gain. The GOP-controlled House is unleashing this attack without offering any new solutions. The Republican dismantling of the healthcare bill would be an act of betrayal to the American people who deserve basic health insurance, not election-year politics.

We have just celebrated the Fourth of July and marked the 236th anniversary of American independence. Looking back on our nation's history, there are certain moments that exemplify our evolution toward true democracy. Those are moments of action, not simply a rhetorical commitment to equality. We freed the slaves, extended voting rights to women, passed the Civil Rights Act and the G.I. bill, gave the right to vote to 18-year-olds, created social security and Medicare, and most recently repealed the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Each of these battles faced fierce opposition, but, now that they have been won, they are remembered as a triumph of core American values. Many look back and believe that America's best days are behind us, but I look ahead and see the Affordable Care Act as yet another brick in the wall of American greatness.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans—young, old, rich, and poor—have an unalienable right to healthcare. I ask my colleagues to join me in my pledge to support the Affordable Care Act and to continue efforts to strengthen our healthcare system in years to come.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support the passage of H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act.

A little over two years ago, as our Democratic colleagues were jamming this bill through Congress, their leadership thought they could appease some of the public's outrage by uttering that now famous phrase "we have to pass the bill to know what's in it."

Unfortunately for them, two years have passed and we now have seen what is in the bill—a top down, Washington-centric plan for the future of American's health services. Obamacare expanded and entrenched the worst parts of the American health system: it drives up premiums, reduces competition among insurers, restricts patient choice, further undermines the solvency of Medicare and Medicaid, and raises hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes.

The law creates over a hundred and fifty new boards and offices, each with the authority to manage a piece of American's health care. The bill also gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services 1,700 new or enlarged powers to control American's access to and interaction with their health services. It even mandates that religious institutions violate the basic tenants of their faith by providing coverage for drugs and procedures that they find morally objectionable.

What's more, the law taxes insurers, device manufacturers, and drug manufacturers, driving up the cost of these products. And then, in perhaps the greatest insult, Obamacare

taxes employers for not providing insurance, it taxes people for not having insurance, and then it taxes people for having insurance that is too good.

Mr. Speaker, from its inception, this law has been a failure because it is premised on the misguided idea that a small group of individuals can plan out orderly lives for the rest of us. There is not one person working at the Department of Health and Human Services who knows what it is like to be a family in Bronte, practice medicine in Brownwood, or run a hospital in Andrews. Yet, Obamacare hands the fate of the families, doctors, and hospitals across my district over to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and her staff.

The ACA sets the ideas of this small cadre of Washington insiders ahead of the concerns of my constituents and their caregivers. It was crafted in secret and passed in the dead of night, and its most important details were left up to regulators who are unaccountable to voters. What was a 2,700 hundred page bill has spawned over 12,000 pages of regulations and more are being published every day.

Americans deserve a health care system that is designed with them at the heart of it. House Republicans are committed to enacting sensible reforms that build up the free-market. Solutions like buying insurance across state lines, allowing association health plans, and reforming our out of control tout system are common sense changes that will expand risk pools, lower premiums, and make insurance more affordable for millions of Americans. Our ideas can do this without the thousands of pages of rules and regulations, the hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes, and the mandates imposed by Obamacare.

I urge my colleagues join me in passing H.R. 6079 to repeal this divisive, intrusive, and loathsome healthcare law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 6079 is postponed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4402, NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (during consideration of H.R. 6079), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-590) on the resolution (H. Res. 726) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

VOTE AGAINST THE REPEAL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have just finished part of the debate for legislation that wants to

repeal the Affordable Care Act. I rise today as we conclude and begin to look toward the conclusion of the debate tomorrow to make a public appeal.

When the 1965 Medicare law was written, it was written to save lives. We have statistics that recognize that prior to Medicare, Americans were living 60 years and under. It is well documented that we've extended the lives of senior citizens through Medicare. Now the Affordable Care Act seeks to extend the lives of the sickest of the sick, to extend the lives of children with pre-existing diseases, to extend the lives of individuals who would not have access to insurance, or those families who have been thrown into poverty because of catastrophic illnesses or an accident. We can do better.

This bill is a promise of allowing and providing for all Americans to be insured. This bill cries out for Republicans and Democrats to work together. This bill cries out for saving the lives of Americans who have been falling along the highway of despair and dying.

It is important for us to look for the common and better good, the public good. Save this bill. Vote against the repeal.

DOCTORS CAUCUS SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. ELLMERS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 32 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, it's a pleasure to be on the floor once again to really talk about my favorite subject in Congress, and that is health care.

I am a physician and have been a physician for 36 years. I am a family physician. I still have an active practice and practice when I get a chance, which lately has not been very often.

We'll be talking about ObamaCare, the repeal of ObamaCare, and we'll be talking about Medicare. I say "we." That is only if I'm joined by some of my colleagues who may be making their way here this evening.

I want to in the way of introduction just let everyone understand, Madam Speaker, how we got here in the first place. Why are we here this evening talking about this? Why are we talking about the repeal of ObamaCare?

I take you back to 1965 when there was a recognition that health care insurance was becoming something more than just insurance; that is to say, that insurance, of course, in theory is to protect against catastrophe. We see that, of course, in our homeowners insurance and our car insurance. So it seemed a good idea to have some form of insurance where you would not be bankrupted by a sudden and severe illness and have your lifesavings taken away.

So the idea of insurance came up, and it was mostly a catastrophic policy.