

we must remain focused on job creation and economic growth. As part of my Main Street jobs agenda, I'm focused on bringing opportunities such as STEM education for our students and for those looking for work. As part of this effort, I've cosponsored the bipartisan, bicameral Startup Act 2.0.

The United States is the higher education destination for the world. This is a testament to the strength of these institutions and the value of the degrees. But too often, foreign students come here to learn, and then have little choice but to return to their home countries after they are through.

Students with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are forced to go home with that knowledge, with the ideas and aspirations, aspirations to change the world and bring new technologies. Many of them want to stay here to make something of themselves here in our country because it is still the best place for ideas to become realities. And what we do is we force them to go back to their own country, to compete against us here in the United States.

These ideas become solutions which, in turn, become job-creating companies. According to a study by the National Foundation for American Policy, immigrants founded or cofounded almost half of the top 50 venture-backed companies in the United States.

Since our Nation's founding, Mr. Speaker, immigrants have flourished, along with our economy. America becomes a richer and more dynamic society by encouraging the best and the brightest from all over the world to set up shop here on our soil. That is why I'm honored to cosponsor the bipartisan, bicameral Startup Act 2.0 that will help get Americans back to work, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

America becomes a richer and more dynamic society by encouraging the best and the brightest from all over the world to come here to our country.

The people I welcomed as new citizens this week do not have time for gridlock in Washington, Mr. Speaker. The American public doesn't have time for gridlock in Washington. We must move forward and find common ground to help the millions of Americans who are working toward their American Dream, to help them get back to work.

#### READ THE BILLS AND COMPARE THE TWO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this message is only for persons who may get sick. If you will never get sick, this message is not for you, N-O-T, not for you. Only for those who will get sick.

Mr. Speaker, I hold in my left hand a copy of the Affordable Care Act. I hold in my right hand the replacement bill that my colleagues across the aisle have been talking about.

This bill has passed the Congress of the United States of America. It is more than 2,000 pages. It was condemned for being too long, which may explain the size of this bill. This bill has within it preventive care. This bill has within it a cap on administrative costs. You must spend 80 to 85 percent of the money that insurance companies collect on health care. This bill protects persons who are under 26 years of age, as they can stay on their parents' insurance. This bill covers persons with preexisting conditions.

I had to read this bill. My constituents insisted that I read this bill before voting on it.

And my constituents want me to read this bill. This is the replacement bill, and they want me to be sure that I understand the replacement bill before I vote to repeal.

So what I'd like to do now, for all within the sound of my voice and who are viewing this, I want to read the replacement bill. I shall read the replacement bill. Let me just read half of it first. I shall now read one-half of the replacement bill. Now, I shall read the other half of the replacement bill.

Now, some of you will say, AL, you read too fast; I didn't pick up all of that. So, for those who listen slowly, or those who may have missed it, I shall now read the replacement bill in its entirety. That's the replacement bill.

Here is the bill that we can read. I'm going to ask that I be allowed to place the replacement bill in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that persons consider the empirical evidence as well as the invisible evidence. When you weigh the empirical evidence against the invisible evidence, you decide whether we should vote to repeal.

Now, there may be some who contend, well, AL, really, I'd just like to go back to the way things were. Let's quickly go back to the way things were. Gladys Knight had a song titled, "The Way We Were."

Here is the way we were in 2009. In 2009, when we were considering replacement, we were spending \$2.5 trillion a year on health care. That's a big number. Hard to get your mind around it. That's \$79,000 a second. It was, at that time, 17.6 percent of the GDP.

We were spending \$100 billion a year on persons who were uninsured. It was projected that by 2018 we'd spend \$4.4 trillion, which would have been 20.3 percent of GDP, which is \$139,000 a second.

In my State of Texas we had 6 million people who were uninsured. In Harris County, where I have my congressional district, we had 1.1 million people who were uninsured. Twenty percent of the State's children were uninsured. Fifty million Americans were uninsured. 45,000 persons per year were dying because of a lack of insurance. That's one person every 12 minutes.

And if you don't like that, call Harvard. I got the statistics from Harvard.

The system was not sustainable. This is why we embarked upon producing this bill.

So I beg that those who insisted that I read this bill before voting, please understand that before you vote, you ought to read this bill and compare the two.

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#### COMMUTER SAVINGS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HAYWORTH) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAYWORTH. As a frequent rider and former commuter on New York's mass transit system, I know how important public transportation is.

Alone, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or MTA, transports more than 8.5 million commuters across metropolitan New York every day. In the district I'm privileged to serve—New York's 19th Congressional District—which includes Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, and Putnam Counties, the MTA's 31 Metro-North Railroad stations serve 11,000 passengers every weekday.

Our Hudson Valley's mass transit commuters lost part of their recent tax credits for employer-provided mass transit benefits as of January 1 of this year. Commuters utilizing the mass transit portion have seen their credits drop from \$230 per month to \$125 per month, which means that their commuting costs have increased. In contrast, commuters utilizing the driving and parking benefits have seen an automatic increase from \$230 per month to \$240 per month, which is why I introduced the Commuter Savings Act on June 29.

This legislation would extend parity between the mass transit and parking portions of the transportation tax credit, which would increase mass transit benefits from \$125 per month to \$240 per month. Mass transit minimizes traffic congestion, reduces fuel consumption, and limits the wear and tear on our roads and bridges. It's really a great win for all of us even if we don't use mass transit. The Commuter Savings Act will directly help more than 70,000 of our Hudson Valley neighbors, and the bill is retroactive to January 1 of this year, which will provide mass transit commuters with a full 2 years of certainty in their mass transit benefits.

For the tens of thousands of Hudson Valley residents and millions of Americans across the country who rely on safe and affordable public transportation and for all of us who enjoy the benefits of those fellow Americans using mass transit, I urge my colleagues to join me and my fellow primary cosponsors, Representatives PETER KING and BOB DOLD, in giving our mass transit commuters a break in these tough economic times.

JULIE DOYLE

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

Mr. ELLISON. I appreciate everything everyone has said in defense of the Affordable Care Act; but rather than striking a statistical position or coming up with basically what was pretty humorous and entertaining by my good friend from Texas—I really enjoyed his presentation—I just want to talk about a person.

This is the person I want to talk about. She is a young lady from my district in the prime of her youth. She is only 25. I would like to talk to you about her a little bit, Mr. Speaker.

Today, we are going to vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 31st time. We are wasting 2 days debating a bill that has already passed the House and that has no chance in the Senate. Rather than spending our time creating jobs, we're spending it trying to take health care away from those who need it most. One of those people, Mr. Speaker, is an individual by the name of Julie Doyle.

This is Julie. Julie is 25, as I said. Her life has already been filled with numerous roadblocks. Julie had her first heart procedure at age 12; and for the last 13 years, her life has been filled with many ups and downs, including having lost her father when she was 15. Despite numerous health issues, Julie is still very active as the captain of her softball team, as the captain of her tennis team. She is a student council member and an active community volunteer. So as you can imagine, I think she is an amazing kid. Of course, she is not a kid—she is a young woman now—but she is still quite an amazing member of our community.

Like many young people her age, Julie is dreaming of going to college, of having a successful career. She wants to study business. Her efforts were derailed about 3 years ago when she started having multiple system disorders and started blacking out. There were days when she only had the energy to crawl from the bathroom. Concussions, bruises, broken teeth became routine. Just as her condition was becoming severe, her insurance was due to end. However, because of the Affordable Care Act provision allowing young adults to stay on their parents' plans until the young adults are aged 26, Julie was able to get the health care that she needed.

Now, for the people who think it's so clever, so smart, so funny to repeal the Affordable Care Act—I don't know what they think it is—I urge them to think about Julie. Julie is worth it.

#### OPPOSITION TO REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this is day 2 of the misguided Republican attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We have been down this road 31 times with the same arguments and

the same often misleading rhetoric that does not reflect the true benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

Those who argue against it are not speaking for my 167,000 uninsured constituents who for the first time will receive health insurance coverage when the law is fully implemented. They are not speaking for the 7,000 young adults who can now stay on their parents' insurance plans until they are aged 26, or for the 510 small businesses in my district that are receiving tax credits to help maintain or expand health care coverage for their employees.

Colleagues who support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act are also disregarding the needs of minority communities in which millions suffer from persistent and life-shortening health disparities. In my largely Latino district, for example, thousands more of my constituents will have access to health care through the expansion of Medicaid, the creation of health insurance exchanges, and through the law's expansion of community health centers.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents do not want the Affordable Care Act repealed nor do the millions of Americans across our country for which the ACA has brought lifesaving benefits. This is most certainly true for women, seniors and people with disabilities.

Under the Affordable Care Act, being female can no longer be considered a preexisting condition. Women will no longer have to pay higher premiums than men, and prenatal care will finally be covered for all women in this country.

Never again will our sisters, mothers and daughters have to choose between a mammogram or putting food on the table because these lifesaving preventative health services will no longer require copayments.

As for seniors, last year, as a result of health reform, over 32 million of them received free preventative health services, and over 5 million seniors are saving close to \$4 billion on Medicare prescription drug costs as the doughnut hole closes.

Because Obama cares, our families and neighbors with disabilities will no longer live in fear of reaching lifetime limits on their insurance or of being excluded from coverage due to having preexisting conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is already working for my constituents—for women, for minority communities, for seniors, and for people with disabilities. It is time for my Republican colleagues to listen to these Americans who do not want to lose their new health benefits. The Supreme Court has upheld the Affordable Care Act. Let's stop wasting time and taxpayers' money and find solutions to the other complex issues facing our country today.

#### OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the poor will always be with us, but our job is to help raise the standards. I've got to tell you, if it were not already invented, I would say this Congress invented the words the "do nothing Congress"—do nothing.

Today is the second day that we are debating the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Let me be clear that not one single person who has come to this floor debating doing away with it doesn't have insurance, because we have the best insurance. In fact, my blood pressure is up, so I went downstairs. Because I have insurance, I was able to test my blood pressure and get some additional medication. In fact, later I was able to go to the dentist because I have insurance. Yet what we are debating is you at home not having health care, because we—everybody in this House, every Member who has come to this floor—has health care.

□ 1110

Every single President, since Theodore Franklin Roosevelt, for 75 years has tried to push some form of universal health care, and I want to thank President Barack Obama. They like to say "ObamaCare." I want to say, "President Barack Obama cares, and he was able to accomplish something." Let's be clear that the President proposes, and the Congress disposes. So it had to be the Congress. It was the Democratic Congress, the Democratic Senate, and the President that passed the bill.

Instead of discussing health care repeal, we should be debating VA construction. In my State as of July 1, the VA paid an additional \$500,000 to rent a portable operating room for a project that is 95 percent complete, but we haven't had a chance on the floor to take up VA construction. We have 31 times that we're taking up repealing health care. I visited that facility last month, and I found out that it would have been a health risk not to expand the program for the veterans in that area.

People often say, "What did the Democratic House, President, and Congress do?" We passed the largest VA budget in the history of the United States of America. We took care of the veterans. We had a far-reaching budget. We gave care to the caregivers of our veterans. It goes on and on.

I really do believe to whom God has given much, much is expected. He expects us to work to empower the American people with jobs and health care. Basically "do nothing" is the label of this Congress, the Do-Nothing Congress.