

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.

MMM, MMM BAD HEALTH CARE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 2 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Republicans in the House will once again bring up a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

We've seen a lot of repeal from them, but not as much with respect to their so-called plan to replace. I think I've figured out what the GOP wants to replace the Affordable Care Act with.

Here is what I assume must be the Republican plan for health care in our country: chicken noodle soup. Chicken noodle soup? Many of our mothers and grandmothers have told us that chicken noodle soup is a cure-all for anything, but I think the Republican plan takes Grandma at her word a little too literally.

Can't afford health care coverage and need medical care? Have some chicken noodle soup. Have you been diagnosed with a serious disease and can't afford the prescription drugs you need to treat it? Have some chicken noodle soup. At least you can rely on good old-fashioned chicken noodle soup. Have a preexisting condition like diabetes that lets your insurance company deny you coverage? That's okay. Have some chicken noodle soup and you'll feel better in the morning.

The truth is, it won't be all better in the morning. That's why we enacted the Affordable Care Act, to ensure that people could get the affordable, quality coverage they need; that seniors can afford their prescription medications; and that an insurance company can no longer deny you coverage because you have a preexisting condition.

I don't know why Republicans want to go back to the day when chicken noodle soup was the only option for hardworking families who couldn't afford care. The truth is, chicken noodle soup might be mmm, mmm good for lunch, but as a health care policy, it is mmm, mmm bad.

LET'S STOP THE POSTURING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 3 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, we have heard hours of impassioned speeches on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, most defending all or nothing, and pitting us against them. But the American people aren't interested in the politics. They want us to focus on what we can do moving forward to make good health care more affordable for them without breaking the bank.

I believe the ACA is flawed, and I parted ways with the majority of my Democratic colleagues in voting against it in 2010. As I said then, "The bill does not do enough to lower the skyrocketing costs of health care, cuts more than \$400 billion from Medicare, is not fiscally sustainable over the

long-term, and breaks with the status quo by allowing Federal funding for abortion and abortion coverage."

But we all agree there are good provisions. The bill expanded access to care and improved health insurance by doing things such as prohibiting discrimination based on preexisting conditions and extending family coverage to children up to the age of 26. Why, then, are we being asked to blindly throw out the good with the bad, or alternatively, to simply let the law stand with no changes at all?

A few months after I voted against the ACA, in a town hall meeting in Hickory Hills, I was asked by an opponent of the law if I would vote to repeal it. I said, "No. We need a fix, not a repeal that would take us back to the status quo." He said, "Okay. Repeal and replace. Keep the good parts, and make other necessary changes."

I agreed, and that's exactly what I have been working to do. I helped pass into law a bill to repeal the burdensome 1099 requirement for small businesses and helped introduce and pass legislation to repeal the ACA's CLASS Act program, which would have added tens of billions of dollars to the deficit. In addition, I worked to pass legislation to ensure that no taxpayer money is spent for abortion under the law, and I continue to fight against portions of the HHS mandate that violate Americans' religious liberty.

At the start of this Congress, I hoped we could work on major fixes to the health care law. Instead, a bill was brought to the floor in January 2011 which would have eliminated the entire law with no exceptions. I opposed that bill. I voted for a resolution instructing four House committees to develop replacement legislation. Yet, 18 months later, there still is no replacement. Instead, we're again voting on a repeal, period. And once again, we all know this bill will pass the House and die in the Senate.

A Chicago Tribune editorial recently stated: "If Democrats want to save the ambitions of this law, they're going to have to find a way to write a Truly Affordable Care Act." And the Tribune concluded that Republicans "ought to engage Democrats in a real effort to contain the costs before the law takes full effect in 2014." I wholeheartedly agree.

Let's stop the posturing, roll up our sleeves, and work to make health care more affordable for all Americans in a fiscally sound manner. That is what the American people want us to do. That is what we need to do.

REPEAL OF THE ACA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) for 3 minutes.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe we are asked for a 31st time to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

This isn't just a policy issue. This is a moral test. This is one of the great

moral tests of our time. Those who vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act are failing that moral test. They are utterly failing that test.

Paying health insurance premiums and other health care bills has become very difficult for American families. Premiums have gone up each year and the cost of health care has escalated. Insurance companies have shifted costs to consumers through increases in deductibles and copayments and decreases in covered services. Low- and middle-income families need relief from skyrocketing health care costs.

The constitutional ACA provides real relief to American families. First, the Affordable Care Act provides direct financial relief to millions of insured American families that struggle to pay health insurance premiums today. The new law allows families to shop for a plan in new State insurance exchanges and allows them to receive a big discount on their premiums.

□ 1120

The ACA protects people from high deductibles, high copayments, and unexpected gaps in their insurance coverage in three ways. It eliminates lifetime and annual limits on how much an insurance plan will pay for covered benefits. That means payments won't suddenly run out. It caps how much a person must spend each year on deductibles and copayments for covered benefits. That means that families won't be forced to lose their homes because they get sick. And it provides additional help with out-of-pocket costs for lower-income families.

Second, the ACA expands the affordable insurance options to families who could not afford coverage before. Medicaid will now be available to families at or lower than the 133 percent of the Federal poverty level. For people with incomes above that level and up to 400 percent of poverty, new premium tax credits will help them afford coverage. Reducing the number of uninsured will help reduce the "hidden health tax" that is imposed on insured families. We all pay higher premiums to pay for the care of the uninsured.

Third, the Affordable Care Act will slow the growth of underlying health care costs and help all Americans.

As I have said on this floor before, the ACA is the greatest improvement in women's health in decades. Under the ACA, millions of women are gaining access to affordable health care coverage. Women will not have to pay more than men for the same insurance policy, and women will not be denied coverage because they are sick or have preexisting conditions. Women will be guaranteed preventive services, such as mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, with no deductibles or copays.

Senior women will have access to coordinated care.

Senior women will save thousands of dollars as reform closes the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap.