

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RICE UNIVERSITY—HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, late one summer night a few years ago, I boarded a red-eye flight back to Houston. I saw college students on the plane, and I expected the worst. I was wrong, however. As soon as the plane took off, these athletes broke out their books, and they studied for the rest of the flight. I was impressed by this group of considerate, smart, focused, and driven student athletes. No surprise, they were the Owls baseball team from Rice University.

Rice was named after Massachusetts-born businessman William Marsh Rice, a transplanted Yankee who was successful in Houston, Texas. He chartered the Rice Institute. Today, Rice University is the home of 5,000 students. Its achievements make Houston proud—artificial heart research, structural chemical analysis, and space science, just to name a few. And the Rice Owls baseball team gives Houston a baseball team we can be proud of. And just yesterday, Rice was named one of the top 100 universities in the world by the Center for World University Rankings.

I want to congratulate Rice president, Dr. Leebron, his wonderful educators, and his students for an amazing 100 years of excellence and education.

And that's just the way it is.

STUDENT VETERANS ACADEMIC COUNSELING ENHANCEMENT ACT

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. After returning from Iraq, John started college. He didn't pick a major right away, instead, exploring different subjects. But he struggled. It was hard for him to focus; and after what he had been through, he couldn't relate to his classmates. Soon, he had used up his GI Bill benefits and couldn't afford to graduate.

What John's story tells us is that even though we vigorously train our soldiers, we give veterans little guidance to succeed in school. So I'm introducing the Student Veterans Academic Counseling Enhancement Act, endorsed by the American Legion, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This bill provides regular one-on-one academic counseling to GI Bill students no matter where they go to school, and it tracks veteran graduation rates to help ensure academic and career success. This Student Veterans Act will ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly, while helping veterans graduate and get good jobs. We owe it to those who have sacrificed so much for us, our veterans.

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Madam Speaker, in upholding the President's health care law, the Supreme Court identified the law as a \$675 billion tax increase on America's working families and reminds us that we cannot depend on courts to fix the mistakes that Congress has made.

I know something about health care. I've been a doctor for 30 years taking care of patients in northern Michigan. I know the President's plan is not solving our health care problems. In fact, it's making them worse.

The law hurts seniors by cutting more than \$500 billion from Medicare. The law creates a board of 15 Washington bureaucrats to decide how to reduce Medicare costs. The law contains more than 13,000 pages of new regulations that will suffocate our small businesses.

The President's law never addressed rising health care costs. America has a great health care system, but the problem is it costs too much. I recommend we enact a step-by-step approach that lowers cost through free market competition and strengthens the doctor-patient relationship.

The American people have been clear—they don't like this terrible law. I urge all Members to support the Repeal of Obamacare Act, so we can scrap this law and work together on real health care reforms that actually lower costs and make health care more affordable.

LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance.

The Leadership Alliance, established by Brown University in 1992, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority-serving institutions with the mission of developing underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business, and the public sector.

Through an organized program of research, networking, and mentorship at critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars for graduate training and professional apprenticeships.

To date, the consortium has mentored more than 2,600 undergraduates, including 33 Rhode Islanders. Brown University has mentored 386 Leadership Alliance participants, 35 percent of whom have received a graduate-level degree.

I am proud to stand in support of this initiative that identifies, trains, and

mentors talented underrepresented and underserved students.

I congratulate and commend the Leadership Alliance, including Brown University, for 20 years of mentoring a diverse and competitive research and scholarly workforce.

□ 1210

REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, in 2009, President Obama rightly said, "The last thing you want to do is raise taxes in the middle of a recession." Yet the President's signature legislative achievement, ObamaCare, hinges on 21 separate tax increases, 12 of which hit the middle class.

ObamaCare and its taxes have already proved crushing to the economy, along with broken promises to spur job creation, reduce debt, cut premium costs, and allow patients to keep their coverage and physicians. Family premiums are up over \$1,000, 20 million people are at risk of losing the doctors they like, 48 percent of businesses aren't hiring to brace for rising health costs, and by 2021, the CBO estimates there will be 800,000 fewer jobs because of ObamaCare.

The job of Congress is not to defend failure. ObamaCare makes it harder for job creators to hire and fails in its most basic objectives. Thus, we have a duty to spare the American people from its \$1.76 trillion bill by fully repealing this legislation.

NOMINATION OF JOHN T. FOWLKES, JR. TO THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT OF WESTERN TENNESSEE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday the United States Senate approved the nomination of President Obama, upon my recommendation, of John T. Fowlkes, Jr. to be the new Federal District Court Judge in the Western District of Tennessee. It was a moment of bipartisanship, where Senators McCONNELL and REID worked to get the nomination up, and my Republican Senators, CORKER and ALEXANDER, sponsored and supported that nomination.

Judge Fowlkes is an outstanding jurist and was an astounding attorney. He was a public defender, a State prosecutor, a Federal prosecutor, a chief administrative officer for our county government, and a current criminal court judge.

I empaneled a group of lawyers—bipartisan, just about every representation you can imagine—to advise me on the person to recommend. Everybody felt John Fowlkes had the temperament and disposition, judicial experience, and was the right person for the job.

I was proud to recommend him. I'm pleased the President nominated him. I'm thankful the Senate acted in a bipartisan way so we can work down our caseload. We need more judges, and the Senate needs to approve more.

THE WRONG PRESCRIPTION

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, we've long known that President Obama's takeover of our health care is bad medicine. And now that the Supreme Court has determined that it's one of the largest tax increases in American history, we've confirmed that it's bad policy.

As I travel up and down the Ohio River, I hear repeatedly that this disastrous law must be repealed and replaced with commonsense, patient-centered solutions that will grow our economy.

Today, the House will vote, once again, to repeal this law because it's full of broken promises covered up in empty political rhetoric.

President Obama promised us that this law would lower health care costs, but now we know it will cost more than double what was expected, almost \$2 trillion.

We were promised that the law would create jobs, but 40 percent of American businesses tell a different story.

And finally, we were promised that we'd be able to keep our doctors, but a recent survey says that 83 percent of doctors have considered quitting over the law.

Free market and patient-centered solutions are not only good policies, but they are also the correct medicines for health care reform, not President Obama's Big Government takeover.

TEXAS' DECISION NOT TO EXPAND MEDICAID AND THE VOTE TO REPEAL THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, by refusing to expand Medicaid to cover millions of sick, low-income adults, Texas Governor Rick Perry has joined the growing list of Republican Governors who have decided to put partisan politics before the health of their residents.

6.2 million Texans, including 1.2 million children, lack health insurance, the highest number of any State in the Nation. Medicaid expansion would drastically decrease Texas' uninsured rate from an astonishing 25 percent to just 9 percent.

Without the Affordable Care Act, millions of uninsured Americans will continue to seek primary care in our Nation's overcrowded emergency rooms, leaving taxpayers, property

owners, to foot the bill. As a nonpracticing registered nurse, I am all too familiar with this scenario, which has placed a tremendous burden on our Nation's hospital systems.

Madam Speaker, the highest court in the Nation has spoken, and it's time for us to move forward for the American people.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SPECIALIST ANDREW SMITH

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Specialist Andrew Smith of the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Andrew grew up in my hometown of Ooltewah, Tennessee, and enlisted in the Army after graduating from Lee University. On his first patrol in Kandahar, an IED detonated near him and he lost both of his legs.

I first met Andrew where he was recovering at Walter Reed, where I was impressed by his spirit, curiosity, and determination. His wife, Tori, was by his side the entire time and keeps a constant vigil. Andrew's mother has been active as well, ensuring he receives the best care possible.

A particularly touching tribute is an essay written by Andrew's sister, Katie. She writes:

He was aware of the risks that were involved in being a soldier, but he was so devoted to protecting our freedom that he was willing to sacrifice in a major way. Even though he is away from the war, he is still fighting.

Katie's essay reminds us that our freedom and safety depend on heroes like Andrew Smith who put their lives on the line to defend us. I am humbled to recognize Andrew, and I am pleased his family is able to join him here today in the House gallery.

I will submit Katie's essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD later. And I speak for all Americans when I say that we are forever grateful.

STOP THE POLITICAL THEATER

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. On January 19, 2011, the Republicans voted to repeal ObamaCare. Thirty other times on the floor since then, they have voted to repeal ObamaCare, or part of ObamaCare. And today, for the 31st time, they will vote to repeal ObamaCare.

How about doing something productive for the American people in terms of lowering health insurance and health care costs instead of your political theater here?

The Supreme Court has ruled. Let's roll up our sleeves and improve what is the law of the land.

I propose that today we should vote on my bipartisan amendment to take away the antitrust immunity of your

friends, the insurance industry, so they can't collude to drive up prices, they can't collude to restrict coverage and divide up markets and make it more expensive for all Americans. The Consumers Union says this would mean a 10 to 25 percent drop in everybody's health insurance in this country.

Let's do something real. Stop the political theater. Let's help the American people get affordable health care and health insurance.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 6079. It hasn't taken very long for the weight of ObamaCare to become a significant drag on our economy and our family budgets.

Just 2 years since it was enacted, there are already 12,825 pages of ObamaCare-related regulations and notices published in the Federal Register. Nobody knows what the final number of regulations will be, and let's hope that we never find out.

It is this high level of uncertainty that is preventing many businesses in my district from hiring new workers and growing. This is particularly true among small businesses looking to expand. We must repeal this law now that is a disincentive for any small business to grow.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for repeal.

□ 1220

A DEMOCRACY ABOUT PEOPLE AND NOT DOLLARS

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning not to advocate a Democratic position nor to refute a Republican idea. Instead, I rise to highlight a fundamental threat to our ability to have that important debate. I refer, of course, to the hundreds of millions—indeed, billions—of dollars that will influence who comprises this otherwise democratic body, which may very well determine who occupies the Presidency next.

In each of our hearts, those of us in this Chamber called to represent people know that that cannot possibly be right. That is why I will cosponsor two possible constitutional amendments to reverse the damage of Citizens United—H.J. Res. 111 and H.J. Res. 78.

This should not be partisan. Today, it looks like the dollars are behind the Republicans; but tomorrow, that may be different. So let's join, let's stand together for our democracy and back a constitutional amendment to make our democracy about people, not about dollars.