

Reed amendment. We will soon know about that. The bill is going to be gone and sent to the President soon if the House agrees to pass this legislation.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 2 years ago tomorrow President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law. It was the greatest single step in generations toward ensuring access to affordable quality health care for every American, regardless of where they live or how much money they make.

Millions and millions of Americans have already felt the benefit of this law. Seniors are saving money—millions and millions of dollars—on their prescriptions and their free checkups. The doughnut hole is rapidly disappearing because of this law.

Insurance companies can no longer set arbitrary lifetime caps on benefits, putting millions of Americans one car accident or heart attack away from bankruptcy. People think they are in good shape; they have a health insurance policy. Then they get into a car accident or they get cancer or some other dread disease and they are in the process of being taken care of and they are told their bills are not going to be paid anymore; their limit is \$10,000 or \$50,000 and insurance stopped paying the benefits.

Under this legislation that can no longer be done. That is why the President signed the bill. Under this legislation that is now law, children can no longer be denied insurance because they have preexisting conditions. The protection will soon extend to all Americans, and in 2 short years—in fact, less time than that—virtually every man, woman, and child in America will have access to the health insurance they can afford and the vital care they need. They will have the same kind of insurance the Presiding Officer and I have—basically the same insurance. People rail against this plan of President Obama's. I haven't seen a single one of the Republicans rail against this law saying: We don't want our insurance because it is government insurance.

Every Member of the Senate has the same insurance that we are by law giving to everyone in America. So my Republican colleagues who berate this bill, let them drop their government insurance. If they hate this coverage so much that we are trying to give to the American people, they can drop what they have because it is the same thing basically.

No longer will hundreds of millions of Americans live in fear of losing their insurance because they lose their jobs, and no longer will tens of millions rely on the only care they know exists—an emergency room. The most expensive care in America is an emergency room visit. Some people go without care because they have no insurance at all.

This is not just a story I have heard from other people. There are people

today who have no insurance just like my family had no insurance when I was growing up. We didn't go to the doctor. We had no insurance. The only time I can remember going to the doctor was when I was deathly ill—literally deathly ill.

My parents had no car, and I had something wrong. I had been sick for a long time. My brother had somebody visit him, and my mother asked if they would be good enough to take us over to the hospital, which was 50 miles away. They did, and I had a growth on one of my intestines. I was very, very sick.

There are many people today just like I was as a little boy; they have no insurance, and they may have the same situation I had, with no transportation and having a visitor take them to the nearest emergency room. That is what happened to me. In my case, the emergency room was 50 miles away.

Unfortunately, Republicans continue to target the rights and benefits guaranteed under that law. If Republicans have their way, insurance companies will once again be allowed to deny care to sick children because they have asthma or diabetes or some of the other situations young people get. In Nevada, thousands of children with preexisting conditions would once again be at the whim of insurance companies that care more about making money than about making people better. If Republicans have their way, young adults just out of college will be kicked off their parents' insurance plans. That is also something I know exists today.

In the little town of Searchlight, where I have my home, a young man named Jeff wanted to go to school. He started at community college and was doing pretty well when he got pain in his groin. At first it started out as a little ache, and then it got to the point that he couldn't take it anymore. But because he was at an age where he was no longer able to stay on his parents' insurance policy, he didn't know where to go. So he went to the so-called county hospital, indigent hospital. He was diagnosed with having testicular cancer. He had been on his dad's insurance policy, but he arrived at an age where he was no longer eligible. His parents certainly did not have much. His mother worked part time in a post office, and his dad worked at a steam-generating plant 50 miles away from Searchlight. So they begged—I am stretching a little bit—but they borrowed and borrowed and borrowed to take care of his two surgeries, a number of hospital visitations, chemotherapy. They paid for that—thousands and thousands of dollars that they had to find a way to pay for for their boy.

Under the law that is now in existence, young people can stay on their parents' insurance policy for 3 or 4 years more, allowing many who are finishing college to go find a job while staying on their parents' insurance policy.

In Nevada, thousands of children with preexisting conditions would, once again, as I have indicated, be without the ability to be taken care of when they are sick.

Almost 23,000 young adults in Nevada would once again have to defer their dreams to take a job or, as I just indicated, go to college or risk going without any care.

If Republicans have their way, our seniors will pay for more prescriptions and checkups. We have had about a quarter of a million Nevada seniors who now get wellness visits, cancer screenings, and other preventive services. If this goes away, it will not happen anymore.

Tens of thousands of seniors who saved millions and millions of dollars in Nevada alone on prescription drugs last year will once again be forced to choose between buying food and buying medicine. If Republicans have their way, taxes will increase for small businesses. So will the deficit. Repealing health care reform would add almost \$1.5 trillion to the Federal debt—not billion, trillion. But when Democrats undertook health care reform, it wasn't just about saving money, it was about saving lives, and we did that.

While the numbers I have just discussed are very important, there is one number that matters more than all the others: 45,000. In the year 2011, 45,000 Americans died because they lacked health insurance. That is almost 1,000 a week. That doesn't include the tens of thousands more who are sick or dying because they have health insurance but still can't afford the care they need.

After the rest of the affordable care act has taken effect over the next 1½ or 2 years, no American will have to bear what President Lyndon Johnson called "the injustice which denies the miracle of healing to the old and to the poor." President Johnson knew that living in a country with the best medical care in the world doesn't matter if people can't access that care.

That is why almost 47 years ago he signed Medicare into law. On that day in July, President Johnson celebrated an American tradition that "calls upon us never to be indifferent toward despair. It commands us never to turn away from helplessness. It directs us never to ignore or to spurn those who suffer untended in a land that is bursting with abundance."

So we saved \$500 billion in wasteful programs and other things in Medicare, we extended the life of it for a dozen years, and gave seniors the things I have talked about today: Filling the doughnut hole, prescription drugs, wellness checks, and all the other things that are so important to them.

The affordable care act continues the tradition President Johnson celebrated because it calls upon us never to be indifferent toward despair, commands us to never turn away from helplessness, and directs us to never ignore or to spurn those who suffer untended in a land that is bursting with abundance.

The law makes certain that the richest Nation in this great world of ours never again turns its back on the despair, helplessness, and many times hopelessness and suffering of the least among us. It guarantees no insurance company will ever again be putting a pricetag on human life.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator GRASSLEY be allocated 45 minutes of the Republican time during the debate on H.R. 3606.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOBS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today the Senate will take up and attempt to pass the JOBS Act. So we find ourselves once again on the cusp of passing a bipartisan jobs package that will make it easier for entrepreneurs and innovators to get the capital they need to build businesses and create jobs.

As I said yesterday, this bill had overwhelming bipartisan support over in the House. Nearly 400 Members voted for it, and the President himself says it will create jobs. He supports it, and he would sign it when we get it to him.

Yet for some reason some in the Democratic-controlled Senate seem intent on slowing it down. Others want to essentially take a step actually backward and undermine a critical provision sponsored by Senators TOOMEY, CARPER, and HUTCHISON included in the House bill, and that was just this week, endorsed by the SEC's Forum on Small Business Capital Formation. The Reed amendment could subject thousands of businesses to SEC regulation unnecessarily, and the Senate should reject it.

So, once again, I ask them to reconsider. Let's put politics aside and pocket this important bipartisan jobs bill.

The JOBS Act is a great example of the type of legislation we should all be able to agree on, and there is simply no good reason for delay. Let's get this

done. Let's get it to the President's desk and have him sign it into law.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday I outlined a number of the broken promises we have seen in connection with the new ObamaCare law: from the promise of being able to keep the plan you have and like, to the promise of protecting Medicare, to the promise of lowering premiums, to the promise of lowering health care costs. Democrats also said taxes would not go up and existing conscience protections would be respected.

Looking back, it seems like there was not anything our Democratic friends, including the President, were not willing to promise in order to get the bill across the finish line. But there is another category of disappointments too; that is, in all the aspects of this bill Democrats did not even talk about before it passed.

We all remember when Speaker PELOSI famously said: We have to pass this bill so we can find out what is in it. One of the things Americans found out about was something called the IPAB—the Independent Payment Advisory Board. This is an unelected, unaccountable board of bureaucrats empowered by this law to make additional cuts to Medicare based on arbitrary cost control targets. As a result of this new board, 15 bureaucrats would now have the power—without any accountability whatsoever—to make changes to Medicare.

What is more, there is no judicial or administrative review of IPAB personnel or recommendations. In other words, they are accountable to no one. IPAB is not answerable to voters, and it cannot be challenged in the courts.

Its main role, as the Wall Street Journal editorial board put it, will be “the inevitable dirty work of denying care”—“the inevitable dirty work of denying care.”

In an effort to control spending, IPAB will limit patient access to medical care. It is that simple and, frankly, it is totally unacceptable.

Republicans recognize the problem with Medicare spending and the need for reform. We also recognize that IPAB is not the answer.

This is just one more reason ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced, and that is why even Democrats are cosponsoring a bill to repeal it over in the House, calling it “a flawed policy that will risk beneficiary access to care.” So this is not just a Republican issue; there is strong bipartisan opposition to this new law.

Look, if the President himself does not even want to talk about this law anymore, and even Democrats in the House are sponsoring repeal of parts of their own law, it should be pretty obvious there is a fundamental problem.

We need to reform health care. But this reform made things worse. The evidence and broken promises are all

around us. It is time the President acknowledged it, and it is time the two parties came together and did something about it.

It is time to repeal ObamaCare and replace it with the kind of common-sense reforms Americans want—reforms that actually lower costs and which put health care back in the hands of individuals and their doctors rather than bureaucrats in Washington.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Again, Mr. President, tomorrow we celebrate the second anniversary of the signing of the affordable care act into law. Our Democratic leader, Senator REID, in his opening remarks today, outlined the tremendous progress we have made. I listened to the comments made by our distinguished Republican leader, and all I heard was: Repeal ObamaCare, repeal ObamaCare.

But I never heard what they want to replace it with. They just want to go back to the old system where the insurance companies ran everything before, where people were thrown off their policies because they had an illness, where because of preexisting conditions people could not get health care coverage, where we had this big doughnut hole which we are now closing for the elderly?

The one aspect I want to focus on this morning in my brief time is an extraordinary element of the affordable care act that is not being talked about a lot but which members of the committee I now am privileged to chair, the HELP Committee, worked so hard to include in the affordable care act; that is, the array of provisions that promote wellness, disease prevention, and public health.

Taken together, these provisions have begun to jump-start America's transformation into a genuine wellness society. They are transforming our current sick care system into a true health care system. I have said this many times: We do not have a health care system in America. We have a sick