

we can make progress in a difficult environment?

I would urge my colleagues to join the bipartisan and growing list of Members who have cosponsored the Personalize Your Care Act, H.R. 1173. Some day Congress is going to deal with the vast looming crisis we face. In the meantime, helping patients understand their choices and make their wishes known and respected is an important step to start.

SURVEY RESEARCH FROM THE REGENCE FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL JOURNAL

AMERICANS AGREE THAT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PALLIATIVE CARE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE TREATMENT OPTIONS SHOULD BE FULLY COVERED

Now, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding these health and life issues.

Discussions about palliative care and end-of-life care treatment options should be fully covered by health insurance: 86% agree.

Discussions about palliative care and end-of-life care treatment options should be fully covered by Medicare: 81% agree.

AMERICANS OF ALL STRIPES SAY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THESE ISSUES TO BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Now that you've heard some more information, how important is it that these health and life issues be a top priority for the health care system in this country?

96%: important.

72%: 'very' important.

AMERICANS WIDELY AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING PATIENTS ABOUT THEIR OPTIONS AND THE VALUE OF A PUBLIC DEBATE

Now, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding these health and life issues.

It is important that patients and their families be educated about palliative care and end-of-life care options available to them along with curative treatment: 97% agree.

A public dialogue and debate about these health and life issues will help patients and their families by providing them with more information about their treatment options: 86% agree.

IMMIGRATION BILLS

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the wake of the passage of the Senate amnesty bill to shed light on two important elements of illegal immigration that the Senate has grossly overlooked. As we know, the Senate bill pairs border security with amnesty. This makes no sense. You would never replace your carpet at home if you still had a hole in the roof.

I am hopeful that the House will put border security first, but I still have concerns. That's why today I'm introducing two pieces of legislation. One will address the problem of visa overstays, and the other will ask for a full accounting of what went wrong with the 1986 amnesty deal that led to our current illegal immigration problem.

The first bill, the Visa Overstay Enforcement Act of 2013, will, for the first

time, make staying in the country after your visa has expired a felony criminal offense instead of just a civil offense. Upon a first offense, the visa overstay would bring a \$10,000 fine and 1 year in jail. The illegal immigrant may not be legally admitted to the United States for 5 years from the date of conviction and may not apply for a visa for 10 years after the date of conviction. A second offense would be subject to a fine of \$15,000 and up to 5 years in jail. The illegal immigrant would be banned from entering the United States for life.

Most of the talk about this issue has been focused on the southern border, but that won't solve our illegal immigration problem alone. If we fix our broken visa system, we can take care of nearly half of our illegal immigration concerns.

The second part of this bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a plan to Congress detailing a biometric exit program involving the taking of fingerprints of those leaving the country at all land, sea, and air ports.

As I have often said, since 40 percent of illegal immigrants here today are here on an expired visa, it is obvious that if your State is home to an international airport, then you effectively live in a border State.

And we should learn from history. In 1986, we were told that if we just granted amnesty to 1.5 million illegal immigrants, the problem would go away. That didn't happen. Instead, 3 million people came here to take advantage of amnesty. We need to know what effect the 1986 amnesty program had on the American worker and whether the effects still linger today. Were wages depressed? Were jobs taken away from legal workers because so many received amnesty? We should learn our lesson.

My second piece of legislation is the 1986 Amnesty Transparency Act. It requires a comprehensive report on the failures of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which are many.

Speaking of 1986, let's remember in that year, one of the bombers in the 1993 World Trade Center attack was granted amnesty. He had originally arrived on an agricultural visa. He was really a taxi driver, and all he ever planted was a bomb.

The real losers in this debate are the legal immigrants who have followed the rules. Here is a clear example:

Under the ObamaCare employer mandate, any company with 50 or more employees must provide health insurance to their employees or pay a fine of \$3,000 per employee, but illegal immigrants granted amnesty under the Senate bill are exempt from ObamaCare. So I ask you: What is the incentive to hire a legal American worker who would come with a health care price tag over an illegal worker who would not? None.

We have immigration laws for two reasons: to protect our national secu-

rity and to protect American jobs. The Senate bill violates both of those principles. So tell me, why would we do this?

I ask the House to consider my commonsense bills and put border security first. Let's put the safety of the American citizens first.

FAILURES OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week while the American people were preparing to celebrate the 237th birthday of the Nation, the Obama administration announced, via a blog post, that it will provide an additional year before the employer reporting requirements and the employer shared responsibility requirements of ObamaCare take effect.

There are few issues as personal and significant in the lives of individuals and families as health and well-being, which is why the irony of reminding Americans that government now controls their health care during the week we celebrate our country's independence did not go unnoticed. Despite efforts to quietly buy time and obfuscate responsibility for this fatally designed health care law, most Americans rightfully view this delay as an admission of failure.

Mr. Speaker, the businesses that provide the jobs and the source of health care coverage for most Americans were not surprised by this announcement. Most are well aware that this law was thoughtlessly rammed through Congress in the middle of the night with a litany of technology flaws and other blatant failures.

Unfortunately, employers have been struggling with high health care costs since before the law passed. Given the combined pressure of new taxes and regulations, businesses are hurting exponentially worse now that the law's provisions have begun to take effect. These new government mandates incentivize businesses to reduce their workforce to under 50 full-time equivalency employees. To avoid financial penalties, the incentive under ObamaCare is to reduce individual hours to avoid these mandates. Employees now face the redefinition of "full-time" down to just 35 hours per week.

This law denies opportunities for growth that could and should be available and promoted. This is fundamentally counter to what a vibrant and robust American economy demands. Fewer jobs and reduced individual hours are not good for individuals, for families, for businesses, or for our economy. Nonetheless, employees and employers alike are experiencing the consequences of "Obama-sizing" both businesses and jobs.

By the time the law is fully implemented in 2023, the Congressional

Budget Office estimates that the President's health care law will still leave 30 million Americans uninsured. At the same time, the law is massively driving up the cost of care for both employers and employees. In fact, 17 of the Nation's largest insurance companies indicate that health insurance premiums will grow an average of 100 percent under this law.

The evidence is overwhelmingly conclusive, Mr. Speaker: ObamaCare is not only unaffordable, but it also fails to address access to care in any meaningful way. In the process, we're damaging everything that is good and effective about the current system. To boot, we're undermining growth and stalling our economic recovery. Effectively, we've thrown the baby out with the bathwater. The fact that the White House used a blog post to announce the employer mandate change reveals just how desperate the administration is to cover up the flaws of this fatally flawed bill. Unfortunately, this is not something the White House was willing to admit until after the midterm election.

CYRUS CYLINDER

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a document of great significance, the Cyrus Cylinder, that will be touring the United States for the duration of this year and will be on display in museums across this country. On October 2, the Cyrus Cylinder will be displayed to the public at the Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

In what historians call the "first bill of human rights," the Cyrus Cylinder, out of Persia, remains important, particularly as the Cylinder's inheritors, the people of Iran, continue to suffer under the repressive Islamic Republic in Iran.

Jews, Babylonians, and Greeks left laudatory accounts of Cyrus' actions. The Cyrus Cylinder is widely considered to be not only the first human rights document, but a document to protect other cultures. In the Torah, it is written:

King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt. The cost will be paid from the cost of the King.

In what now can be considered a defining moment in history, Cyrus permitted the Jews to take their statues, their ceremonial vessels, and important cultural and religious objects back with them to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple.

Cyrus the Great holds a special position in the history of civilization. His humanitarian values of freedom for all people, respect for culture and religious diversity, and recognition of the fact that it is better to be loved than feared are remarkable attributes for any ruler.

But as Ali Razi, who left Iran in the wake of the Iranian Revolution, shares

with us, for someone who lived 2,600 years ago, such beliefs are truly exceptional. Ali Razi makes a second point about the document's influence on Persian and Greek culture, and on the European Enlightenment. Cyrus' values and ideas for governance have long inspired political thinkers and leaders of men, including the Founding Fathers of this country, who wove these same ideals into the very Constitution of the United States. Thomas Jefferson owned two copies of "Cyropedia," a book of histories by the Greek historian Xenophon that told the story of King Cyrus—Cyrus the Great, as the Persians call him. Such was Jefferson's admiration for this work that Jefferson wrote to his own grandson:

I would advise you, go first through the Cyropedia, and then read Herodotus and Thucydides.

Unfortunately, contrary to the traditions of the Cyrus Cylinder, the Iranian Government continues to engage in widespread human rights abuses. While the Cyrus Cylinder highlighted peace and acceptance as its ideals, the current regime in Iran has steadily increased its discriminatory practices and repression of the country's ethnic and religious minority populations—from Azerbaijanis to Baluchis, to Kurds and Arabs, to the Baha'is and Christians and Zoroastrians. Iranian authorities routinely deny its citizens the most basic human rights through harassment, intimidation, detention, and violence.

And for those minorities who have served in the prison system in Iran, they can tell you the stories of how horrible that violence can be. Actions that often violate Iran's own international obligations routinely occur there in that country, and I hope that the tour of the Cyrus Cylinder across the United States brings attention to the oppressiveness of the Iranian regime and serves as a symbol, a symbol that promotes human rights around the world, a symbol to remind people of what that culture once stood for under Cyrus the Great.

So, in 2013, on the occasion of the first-ever visit of the Cyrus Cylinder from the British Museum to the United States, and to the Getty Museum in Malibu from October 2 to December 2, we call attention to this important historical document for the example it set over two millennia ago.

MOURNING LOSS OF LIFE ON ASIANA FLIGHT 214

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for 1 minute.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend as the Nation celebrated the Fourth of July, the birth of our country, tragedy struck. As all the world knows, a plane crash landed at the San Francisco airport, something very uncommon, but something that shared a common interest.

□ 1030

Our thoughts and prayers today rest with the passengers and the crew who were on board Asiana Airlines Flight 214, with the families of the victims of the horrific tragedy, the men and women recovering in hospitals across the Bay Area.

Our prayers are with the families of the two young girls, Ye Mengyuan and Wang Linjia, who lost their lives on Saturday. Indeed, we know that no words can console their loved ones today. All of San Francisco shares in their shock and grief. We will do everything we can do to care for those affected and their families.

The sudden crash shook the grounds of San Francisco International Airport, testing the training, strength and courage of those who would be the first on the scene.

As a Representative of San Francisco in the Congress, a privilege I share with Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER—the airport is actually in Congresswoman SPEIER's district—we will join together to observe and mourn the losses tomorrow when some more of our Members are here, back from the Arizona tragedy.

But for now, I wanted not another day to go by before commending the crew. They performed so heroically. The crew was so magnificent, and a reminder to us that the first responsibility of the crew is safety, that they are trained for it, and they performed magnificently. And the flight attendant, the lead flight attendant was the last person to leave the plane, not until everyone else was off.

First responders responded in characteristic fashion, with bravery, with valor, without regard for their own safety, with their sights set only on the safety of others. Their stories are so remarkable. Their stories are so remarkable about what they saw on the plane and how people responded.

And it was also the coolness and the cooperation, not only of the crew, but of many of the passengers, that enabled so many people to be saved. Seeing the sight of the plane and the crash, it was almost miraculous to think that so many people would survive the crash.

There was only minutes to react, and within minutes, the flight crew and the San Francisco and San Mateo police officers and fire departments were climbing up the rescue chutes, running through smoke-filled aisles and leading passengers out to safety.

Within minutes, Fire Rescue Captain Tony Molloy and his team had set up a triage-and-treatment area so they could immediately evacuate the most severely injured.

Within minutes, the air traffic controllers and airport staff were effectively diverting traffic and travelers to secure the area.

Within minutes, local hospital staff had prepared, made ready and visited to provide the injured with the necessary care and support.