

programs that are long-term investments for our country. So we already compromised, because our number was \$1.58 trillion, or something like that, and the Republican number was \$986 billion. And the President said we'll take that number, so we already compromised.

If you go out and want to buy a car and someone makes an offer for \$10,000 and you say, "No, I'll give you 9 for it," and they say, "Okay, we'll take it for 9," that was a compromise. That's what happened here.

But still, to be clear to my constituents, every bill that has come off this floor didn't just say we're going to extend funding for the government. It said we're going to extend funding for the government and we want to repeal ObamaCare, we want to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and we want to delay it for a year. That is an issue that has been argued. We can continue to do it, but let's do it through the normal political process.

Let's get NIH back up and running, Centers for Disease Control, Food Safety. All of these things can be funded with a total package.

If Speaker BOEHNER brought a bill to the floor, a clean continuing resolution that funded the government without any of this extraneous stuff, it would pass with Democrats and Republicans. The Senate would agree to it, the President would sign it, and the doors would open back up.

Lastly, let me say—because my friends have come up on the other side and said, well, we want to fund NIH because there's pediatric cancer patients there that need help, and I say of course we want to do that. But we want every family in America to have insurance if their child gets cancer. We want every citizen to have access. And the Affordable Care Act has done that for millions and millions of people. It got rid of preexisting conditions. It has taken the insurance companies out of the doctor/patient relationship.

Before, if you were a child or you had cancer, you could hit your lifetime limit on your insurance policy and then you were screwed. You couldn't get insurance because you hit your lifetime limit in just a year or two. The Affordable Care Act removed that cap and it allows those investments to be made and allows that person to be able to get their health care.

These are commonsense things. So I wanted to communicate that to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you. We are here also to recognize National Manufacturing Day tomorrow. I want to thank Congressman REED, who is the cochair of the House Manufacturing Caucus, for his leadership on establishing more of these innovation centers, along with Congressman KENNEDY and all of our speakers here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy my friends on the other side of the aisle, some really terrific public speakers. I also enjoyed particularly the question from my friend across the aisle who said: "Why not let ObamaCare just go through?"

That is something that has been debated and I have discussed with so many of my constituents. There are many people in the country that are so angry about ObamaCare being passed. It is just hard to call it "affordable care" because I have heard from so many that it has just devastated, so many who have told me that it is anything but affordable. It is devastating them.

Some have said if we just let ObamaCare go through, it is going to hurt so many people. It has already hurt so many people. If we just let it go through—stand by, just get out of the way, let it hit, let it get the full hurt and damage that will continue—that will just get worse as it hurts the economy as it continues to make most people's health care and health insurance both go up.

If you are a purely political animal, that is the perfect question to ask: Why not just let ObamaCare go through and let it do its damage?

But when you care deeply about people and see the damage it is doing, how can you stand by and let it keep hurting the way it is? People have already lost insurance, they've already gotten their notices, we continue to get emails, we continue to get calls, I continue to hear from people I know and trust back home, I hear from other people around the country.

There has been an email where people could send us their stories and then we try to verify: [ObamaCare@mail.house.gov](mailto:ObamaCare@mail.house.gov). So those stories continue to come in at [ObamaCare@mail.house.gov](mailto:ObamaCare@mail.house.gov).

So if you are purely a political animal, whether Republican or Democrat, then it is a good question to ask: Why not just let ObamaCare come through? Because if it is as bad as people are telling us it is—you see the damage to the economy, you see the people that have lost full-time work and gone to part-time work because of it, having to take multiple jobs, losing the benefits they had, you see businesses that had cultivated and trained employees, who did not want to lose employees, who were building and building but got above the 50 threshold and now they have had to cut below that or go to part time, you see the damage—then, yes, for purely political animals why not let it go through?

As my friend noted, if it is all that bad you will win the next election, the

majority in the Senate next time, you will win the Presidency next time.

But there are some of us that don't think in purely political terms. We hear from people—our hearts break when their hearts break, we rejoice when they rejoice—and it is hard to feel good and stand by and let a train wreck or a nightmare, depending on which Democrat's description of ObamaCare you want, just let it go and continue to wreak havoc on America and real American people, on American lives.

We've mentioned some of the stories before. As I say, they continue to come in to [ObamaCare@mail.house.gov](mailto:ObamaCare@mail.house.gov).

Here is one from Jeff:

I run a business in Tyler. We have part-time associates that work 35 hours per week on average. But this varies due to the changing business levels. We provide transportation services moving freight to and from Tyler. Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we have had to cut down hours of these associates to get below the employer-mandated level of 30 hours. These associates are used to working 35 hours on average per week. As most Americans, they set their budget for their family around this many hours. Our company needs to be able to compete in this market so we need the flexibility of the part-time worker. However, we must now cut hours of loyal, dedicated associates below 29 hours. This is creating a problem, first for our associates, who are simply trying to make ends meet, and for the organization that I run to provide quality service to our customers. This law is handcuffing the businesses and will ultimately drive up costs of running a company. When costs rise they are passed along to the customers and on to the end consumer. We will continue to struggle economically under this law. Please do whatever you can to reverse this law and restore liberty to this country and our businesses.

Here is one from Tammy:

When ObamaCare first passed its law, I asked my ObGyn what he thought of it. His words were that it "sucks." I told my husband that I bet when all this is said and done he would retire. And guess what? He did. So the part about being able to keep your doctor is definitely not true. Also, I own a small business with less than 50 employees, and we will never be able to grow our business any bigger than what it is right now. Sad.

From Tammy.

Mary said:

We had insurance through Moen in my retirement package, which cost us \$27 per month. It has been canceled effective January 1 of 2014 and comparable coverage is going to cost us \$300 per month. We are on Social Security.

That is from Walter and Mary in east Texas.

Here is one from Harold:

My granddaughter teaches elementary students in Mesquite. She was shocked to find that the health insurance she carries on herself and her son has doubled in cost since the school year. She inquired as to why. And well, you already know what the answer she was given: ObamaCare.

A single mom and her son.

Here is another from a business owner:

I have been told that my company offers what is known as a Cadillac health plan, although it has been years since anyone in my

company could afford a Cadillac automobile. As a small business, I use the ability to offer health care that was superior to others to attract and retain quality, longtime employees. Now faced with being taxed for providing too much of a good thing I will reduce the benefits to my employees. We call that a "left-handed handshake" in Texas. It doesn't sit well with me. I am sure not well with my employees. I am considering early retirement and closing or selling my business all together. It just doesn't seem to matter to anyone anymore that hard work and doing the right thing all these years ever counted for anything. Here is hoping some folks will pull their heads out of—before it is too late.

I was part of Tenet's reduction in force on June 21, 2013. With low hospital census and poor CMS reimbursement my position was eliminated. I lost the family health care. I was paying \$2,062 annually with a family deductible of \$2,400 for our medical, dental, prescription, and eye insurance. For COBRA or Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance we will now have to pay \$1,000 per month or \$12,000 annually. My employment will not cover the cost of my insurance.

That's from Claudia.

I am a firefighter with the city of Whitehouse, Texas. We have been able until October 1, 2013, to work up to 39 hours a week because the city cannot afford to give us benefits. The city asked us if we could get on our spouse's group insurance I could still work up to 39 hours a week with the new health care law. I joined my wife's group policy and went from paying \$189 a month to \$600 per month. We have been told as of October 1, 2013, that Texas Municipal insurance has interpreted the new health care law as anyone working over 30 hours a week has to be provided health benefits. We are now going to be cut back to working 24 hours a week and not get health care. I have left my wife's plan and went back to my own insurance policy, but with the cuts in hours I cannot afford to stay on her plan and will have a hard time paying for my own.

I cannot understand, if the new health plan is going to get health insurance for everyone and I already have insurance, why can't I be left alone to work the 39 hours a week? At \$13 an hour, 24 hours a week doesn't bring in much for the job we are expected to do, and at 61 years of age jobs are kind of scarce. I can't understand why my country is trying to put me on welfare. We have too many on it already. All I want to do is work.

From John.

Here is one from Kerri:

I've been in law enforcement since I was 21, and what is happening to our officers, dispatchers, and deputies today is disgusting. Many rural counties, like mine where I'm from, have voted in County Commissioners Court and actually passed that because of ObamaCare, the deputies will have to pay for their own medical insurance. These officers are already being paid below what surrounding counties are being paid. Now they are going to have to spend over half of their income on their own insurance because the county cannot afford to pay it. Let me break this down for you. A good friend of mine is employed as a deputy by the same county sheriff's office and makes about \$900 every 2 weeks and \$400 to \$450 of that will now go towards medical insurance. This deputy was almost killed in the line of duty 2 years ago, resulting in a lot of surgeries and a year of hospitalization and rehabilitation as well. Because of all of those line-of-duty injuries he may not be able to get private coverage now. How could you ask a man or woman to lay their life on the line every day, to serve the public and enforce laws, but then tell

them that they'll go from spending about \$150 a month on insurance premiums to about \$450 per month.

□ 1815

It's true that you should be able to go to the exchanges, and if they can ever get through and someday get it, it's not going to have the coverage that they had before. They've lost their insurance. They won't have insurance like that again. It won't be the coverage that they'd wanted, that they'd selected, that they'd agreed on. Why? Because, if you like your insurance, ObamaCare makes sure you're not likely to keep it. That's the bottom line.

Here is one from Ima:

Due to ObamaCare, I received a letter from my doctor 2 weeks ago, telling me she would no longer take care of anyone on Medicare. There is a big shortage of doctors that will accept Medicare patients in such a small town as Lufkin. I haven't been able to get another doctor to accept me as of this date. I never thought I would live to experience my own government treating us like we were a Communist nation. Our Congress has truly let the American people down.

I'm sure Ima remembers being told repeatedly by everyone—from the President and by so many of our Democratic colleagues here—that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Well, Ima lost her doctor like so many across America.

Here is one from Jay in east Texas:

My son returned from a tour in Iraq to an economy that hindered his job search for over a year. He finally got a job with Fastenal as a part-time warehouse worker. As a part-timer, he was able to work 39 hours every week, which paid his bills and allowed him to put aside some savings for pilot training. Thanks to ObamaCare, his hours have been cut to 29. He has had to move out of his apartment and into a communal house so he can afford to live. Thankfully, he has VA health benefits. Otherwise, he would have to pay for health benefits or a fine out of his greatly reduced income.

This is from Jim:

My son has a learning disability. Yet he has worked faithfully for a nationwide paint company for over 3 years. He is married. He and his wife work hard and refuse to go on welfare. They have their dignity, a life vision and a committed work ethic. Yet the best position he had attained was part time at the paint company. He was working 32 hours per week, and they were paying their bills, but were living basically at the poverty line.

Then ObamaCare came, and like so many companies, my son's hours were reduced to 28 hours per week. This put him below the poverty line and made it impossible to meet all of his bills. He refused to pursue welfare because he has a commitment to earn what he receives. ObamaCare punished diligent, community, responsible Americans like my son.

How many other working poor have been similarly hurt because of a program that was put in place with such irresponsible legislative leadership?

If someone wonders what James is talking about regarding irresponsible legislative leadership, that came through a legislative process without any input from Republicans, who represented nearly half of the country, so nearly half of the country didn't get

any input into ObamaCare. We were told it would be negotiated on C-SPAN by the President while he was running. Not only was it not negotiated on C-SPAN, but the legislative leaders in this room—in this body—who pushed it through without most of the people who voted for it, haven't any idea what is in it. I read it. That's why I was so committed to voting against it and to trying to get others to understand what they were going to do to America.

So, for this young man, who had known the pride of being self-supporting with a disability and providing for his family just above the poverty line, ObamaCare has shoved him into poverty.

Here is one from Michelle with two "I's." It's not my friend, MICHELE BACHMANN. This is from a Texas "Michelle." She sent this last week:

During this process and even before ObamaCare actually goes into full effect, every single member of my family has been affected. Both of my children, who have always maintained full-time jobs and have supported their families are now faced with part-time employment from multiple jobs because their employers can't afford to provide health insurance any longer, and as such, their hours have been reduced to avoid having to provide health insurance. That means my children and my grandchildren are all going to be forced into the exchanges, which are not affordable at all despite the empty promises made by the Democratic Party when this horrible bill was passed.

In fact, please tell our former Speaker that, now that everyone has had a chance to read it, it's even more obvious that this plan does not work.

On my side, I've always maintained health insurance, but since the passage of ObamaCare, my health premiums have increased over 316 percent. In addition, my deductibles have skyrocketed by 500 percent, and the covered services have been reduced. So thank you for allowing me to keep my health care coverage if I chose to. You didn't mention that it would now be unaffordable.

Here is one from Leland:

"A dark age in medicine." That was the phrase my oncologist, at a recent office visit, used. He said, When you cut reimbursements as low as Medicare and ObamaCare have done, the number of patients I must see to cover the fixed costs of my practice severely impacts the time I can spend with a single patient. Quality of care can't help but be impacted.

If Leland has an oncologist, I hope and pray that his cancer is in remission.

It was amazing to hear Democrats say, Hey, yeah. Okay. Maybe we did cut Medicare in ObamaCare by over \$700 billion. I'm not sure if I hear them talk about the amount by which they devastated Medicare. Hey—but that only goes to the providers. It does not affect and will not affect your care.

As you can find out from Leland, it does affect their care, and as we've heard from other people across the country, when you cut so dramatically the reimbursement that a health care provider gets for providing health care service, either they're going to have to stop providing that service or they cannot provide the same level or quality of service.

Seniors across America are one by one figuring that out. Wow, wait a minute. You were so sold on this ObamaCare bill, and you called it “affordable.” Yet you told me I wasn’t going to be affected as a senior citizen in America when you cut hundreds of billions of dollars out from the services I was going to get? They’re figuring it out. Their service has been affected, and it will get worse and worse as time goes on because that’s what the government does. When the government takes over something, it’s rare that it gets better.

Here we’ve got one from Nick:

The American Veterinary Medical Association has decided, because of the uncertainties of ObamaCare, to discontinue its sponsorship of its group major medical policy, effective December 1, 2013. Not only have my wife and I had this insurance since she graduated from vet school in 1976, but my dad also had it when he graduated from vet school in 1952. So now, at the age of 61, we are looking for new insurance.

I’m sure Nick recalls the promise: if you like your insurance, oh, you can keep it.

Here is an email from Debbie:

I am responding by letting you know that I’ve lost my health care insurance. It’s terminating at the end of this year due to ObamaCare.

Of course, we have her name and information.

One from Tom:

My doctor retired as a result of ObamaCare.

That’s somebody who served in the Army.

Here is one from Emily:

We had group insurance with my husband’s work. It was a plan that covered our family that cost \$568 a month, no co-pay, and the \$1,200 deductible per person has now increased to \$1,100 per month and a \$4,800 deductible per person to stay current with new health care laws. That’s more than our house payment. Once upon a time, a mother whose husband worked was able to stay home. Now either both have to work to afford a thing like insurance or neither works so we can bum off the people who do.

Her subject line was: “Unaffordable rather than Affordable.” But her insurance went from \$568 a month, which is a pretty healthy price there, basically doubling to \$1,100 per month, and the no co-pay deductible went from \$1,200 per person to \$4,800 per person. That’s enough to devastate a family.

Here is one from James:

Several months ago, we got a letter in the mail saying that our physician—and I won’t give the name—was leaving her affiliated practice. When we asked her about it, she listed ObamaCare as the primary reason for leaving the practice.

Here is one from Ty:

I just received my affordable health care renewal notice from my health care insurance provider, which is one of the two members participating in North Carolina’s marketplace exchange. I’ve been informed that the plan which I currently have and like will no longer be available under ObamaCare. As a result, I’m being forced to switch to a new plan. Additionally, effective January 1, 2014, the premium for an insurance plan com-

parable to my current is increasing from \$235 to \$407 per month, and my maximum out-of-pocket expense is increasing from \$2,700 to \$6,350.

He goes on to complain about hearing the President say on numerous occasions, if you like your insurance, you can keep it.

□ 1830

Here’s one from Carmine:

I am a responsible family man. I’ve always provided health insurance for my family. In 2008, I was diagnosed with MS, making insurance expensive. However, I always made do by having insurance either on my wife’s plan or my own plan. In 2009, we lost my wife’s plan and we worried because of my pre-existing condition. However, we learned that our State of New Jersey had a provision that we cannot be denied coverage as long as we can prove we had coverage at the time I was diagnosed. I also find out that in our State, New Jersey, dependents can stay on their parents’ plan up until they are 31 years old. So two of Obama’s biggest benefits were already available in my State. However, after being extremely responsible in this tough economic time, the ObamaCare law has now made my insurance policy nonrenewable. My wife worked really hard to make sure that I and our child are covered under this plan and now we will lose it. We do not know if these plans, which could be a little cheaper, will provide the coverage I need. I have a specific doctor I see at St. Sinai. Because the liberal Democrats want to cover the uninsured—a noble thing—they are hurting those who always try to be responsible.

That was Carmine in New Jersey.

It is worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that back during the ObamaCare debate, there were many of us Republicans who were saying to our Democratic friends—they controlled the White House; they controlled the House; they controlled the Senate—who said, Look, why don’t we do a bipartisan group of bills or one bill? We can agree on a bill that allows people to keep their kids on their insurance if they’re dependents. We can work something out here. We were told we weren’t needed because they controlled the White House, the Senate, the House of Representatives. They didn’t need our input.

They rammed through a bill without knowing what all was in it. I know of cases, I’ve heard of cases where people had acknowledged conditions, insurance companies that we know, and then later got dropped after they got expensive. Oh, you had a preexisting condition. There have been things that were very unfair that insurance companies have done, and there are ways to deal with those things. When there are not, we should fix it with legislation.

What the Democratic party did, without most people who voted for the ObamaCare bill knowing what was in it, they passed a law that had not been properly vetted or thought through. There was no chance to fuss about amendments at the subcommittee, at the committee, or here on the floor because the bill that was dealt with in the subcommittee, committee, it wasn’t the same one that they rushed through as the final ObamaCare.

I read the 1,000-page bill. I read their 2,000-page bill when it looked like that

was what they were going to vote on here. Then it turned out, here came the other. So I was slow to make my way through that bill. I really didn’t want to. What if they come back with a 5,000-page bill after that? When it turned out that’s what they were really going to do, I went through that.

I wasn’t able to go through and take the sections in each place that were talked about in other bills, other laws. It’s almost impossible unless you have a tremendous amount of time to go back and figure out how it actually affects other laws. But when you read through it, you get an awful lot of gist of what’s happening, and it sure wasn’t something we should have passed.

Karen, from Vermont, actually, said:

Shortly following passage of ObamaCare, I lost my primary care doctor. He decided to join a group that limited the number of patients that he could treat, and they charged a yearly fee not covered by Medicare for the privilege of remaining his patient. This resulted in hundreds of patients being dropped. Put an end to ObamaCare.

She lost her doctor. She didn’t get to keep him or her.

Here’s one from Dee:

My insurance deductible was raised to \$4,000, as of September 1, 2013, per individual, \$8,000 per family.

She goes on to describe all the other things that jumped up as a result.

Here’s one from Erica:

As a single disabled mom to one disabled son, I’m on Medicare and Medicaid. I just got my new policy for 2014. Half of the insurance I had is gone because of—

Well, I can’t read that here, Mr. Speaker, as Erica describes the bill in such a way that I can’t read it on the floor.

Anyway, she says:

I was able to join a gym on a discount to keep me active, but no longer can do that. My price increased for my prescription drugs. Please, repeal this bill and listen to the American people.

Here’s one from Helen:

As a glass artist, Obama’s hold on our economy has ruined my business. My target market is middle class, stay-at-home moms, but almost all my customer base has shifted to those owning half-million-dollar homes. I know, because I check every time I make a sale. This makes me very sad, and even mad, that only the wealthy can afford my art now. I should have gone into gun sales, which don’t discriminate.

ObamaCare has forced my family to lose our Blue Cross from my husband’s work because he cannot afford us anymore. We’re almost old enough to go on Medicare, but I hear it’s been raided by ObamaCare, which we refuse to participate in. We’re not Obama’s slaves.

Well, I’m not going to read the rest of that. But Helen obviously is rather bitter because they liked their insurance, but the promises were broken. She didn’t keep her insurance, she and her family. That’s only a portion of the stacks of emails we’ve been getting.

I want to go back to the question my friends ask: Why not just let ObamaCare go through? Like I say, if you’re a pure political animal, yeah, let it go through. Let Americans like

these poor folks, let them keep suffering and, ooh, it will be so good. Republicans will win back the majority in the Senate, and we're told, oh, gee, they'll win the White House in 2016. Well, it just happens that, to some of us, doing the right thing in Congress is not about helping a political party. It's about trying to help the people that elected us. It's about trying to do what's right for the whole country.

If your heart doesn't break when you read these stories and when you take the phone calls and when you have people tell you, with broken hearts, of what's happened to their business, what's happened to their job, what's happened to their family, what's happened to their kids' jobs and the suffering that's going on, why? if you're enough of a political animal like some folks, I guess, yeah, okay, maybe it would be great for the Republican Party if we just sat back and let it go through, let it devastate everybody you can.

My late mother used to tell me she wished I would be a doctor. She used to have Dr. McKellar, who passed away this year. I think he's the one that kept encouraging me, but he would tell me: LOUIS, you'd be a great doctor. I'll help you. You'd be great. We can get you into Baylor Medical School.

That's a great medical school, but it just didn't feel like what I was called to do. It didn't feel right in my heart. But when I think about the suffering that is going on, I know that I'm in a place to make a difference, and we, every one of us here in this body, are here where we can make a difference, where we can help people see the doctor that they should see.

The question has come from different constituents, from other people, gee, all Federal workers—some think that Congress has a different health care plan than all Federal workers, but it's all part of the same Federal plan that every Federal worker has, and you've got choices you can make. Some people have asked a question that I don't have a really good answer for. They've said: If the Democrats were so insistent, if the real purpose of ObamaCare was to try to make sure people that didn't have insurance got insurance, and they really intended to make sure that if you like your insurance you can keep your insurance, and if they were really serious that if you like your doctor you can keep your doctor, then why didn't they just figure out a way that if you don't have insurance, you can choose from a State's cafeteria plan or Federal employee plan in their States? Do something like that.

I don't have a good answer, other than, when you look and you go through ObamaCare, it is very clear, as we said before, it wasn't just about health care. It was about the GRE, the government running everything, the government getting all of your most personal, private information, having every one of your medical records in Federal possession.

It's a disaster.

Well, I have reflected on Franklin Roosevelt's speech. I admired the speech he gave in this room from that podium when it was white marble, that this is a day that will live in infamy. He gave another speech when he said the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. It's considered one of the greatest speeches by anybody. Yet our President was on CNBC yesterday, and he said:

If we get into the habit where one party is allowed to extort, then any President who comes after me would be unable to govern effectively.

That's rather interesting. It's a little different from the approach that Bill Clinton took back in the 1990s; because President Clinton, back during the shutdown, the few weeks that was going on, talked to the Speaker of the House virtually every day. There may have been 1 or 2 days that they didn't talk, but otherwise, they were basically talking every day.

You had an interviewer asking the President, gee, Wall Street seems to be pretty calm. The President, instead of saying that's a great thing, everybody should remain calm, we're going to work this thing out, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself, instead sounded more like a fire alarm, gee, they better be concerned.

He wanted Wall Street to be concerned, to be worried, because when Wall Street gets worried, then it means that people that have invested in the market, that have their life savings, retirement savings in the market, it means they lose money. Yet that's what was suggested—get worried, get concerned.

□ 1845

Here's an article from Penny Starr from yesterday afternoon late. It is an interview with our Democratic colleague across the aisle who chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee that brought ObamaCare to the floor. *cnsnews.com* asked, "What I was going to ask you is if you've read those 10,535 pages of regulations." Those are the final ObamaCare regulations that have now come out and been published in the Federal Register.

Former Chairman WAXMAN, who pushed through the ObamaCare bill, said to the reporter, "Have you read them?" The reporter said, "No. Have you read them?" The former chairman that pushed through ObamaCare said, "Is it important that I read it?" The reporter said, "Do you think that the American people should read it? I just asked you a very honest question, whether you've read them. It's a yes or no question." The former chairman that shoved through ObamaCare said, "I think it is a propaganda question, and I refuse to talk to you about it."

The article says:

Since March 2010, when President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its companion Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, var-

ious Federal agencies have published in the Federal Register 110 final regulations governing how ObamaCare will be implemented. Those regulations add up to 10,535 pages in the Federal Register. That is more than eight times as many pages as there are in the Gutenberg Bible, which has 642 two-sided leaves or 1,286 pages.

It is bad enough ObamaCare was never read by most of the people that voted for it. And now you've got 10,535 regulations that have been published that I'm sure nobody here in the House or the Senate has read, that are now the effective new laws of the land.

We've got new navigators. There is money, massive amounts of money being paid for navigators. And that's created a problem. *National Review Online* published this today by Sean Riley:

Tuesday marked the first day of open enrollment for the health insurance exchanges set up by the Affordable Care Act. It didn't go very well. Would-be health insurance consumers in at least 47 States encountered technical problems. These so-called glitches, however, mask a much more serious concern for consumers: protecting sensitive data. The lack of sufficient security surrounding the exchanges should give potential enrollees pause.

In August, a coalition of attorneys general from 13 States wrote Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to express concerns over consumer privacy and oversight of "navigators," counselors charged with assisting consumers enrolling in the exchanges. Specifically, the attorneys general asked what policies were in place to screen and monitor program personnel, prevent fraud and remedy cases of it, and regulate the navigators at the State level. But chief among their concerns was whether sufficient safeguards were in place to prevent security breaches.

In September, the concerns of the attorneys proved prescient. An employee of Minnesota's health exchange accidentally sent 2,400 Social Security numbers, complete with names and addresses, to an insurance broker applying to become a navigator. Not only was the information mishandled, it was sent in an unencrypted and unsecured spreadsheet, suggesting additional lapses in security. HHS—Health and Human Services—has yet to respond to the August letter.

Concerns are not limited to the 13 attorneys general who wrote to Secretary Sebelius. In California, State insurance commissioner Dave Jones, an early supporter of the ACA, expressed worry that the 21,000 personnel providing customer support for the exchanges lacked proper oversight and could "obtain information that will allow them to build the trust they have with the individual they're working with and potentially sell them all manner of bogus products, steal their identity, and gain access to certain assets they might have."

Commissioner Jones is not alone in his unease. A report from the House Oversight Committee found that top HHS officials are similarly worried about the potential for identity theft.

Anyway, the article goes on.

An article here from today entitled, "Obama: 'I have bent over backwards to work with the Republican Party.'" It says "I think it's fair to say that—during the course of my presidency—I have bent over backwards to work with the Republican Party. And have purposely kept my rhetoric down." Of

course that's not exactly what the term "extort" would indicate from the other article.

But again, I go back to the fact that during the last shutdown of the government, President Clinton and Newt Gingrich were talking daily, only a day or two exception during those few weeks. I mentioned that to another Member of Congress. And he said, Well the difference must have been that President Clinton wanted to end the shutdown. Because there's evidence that continues to mount that this wasn't about the Republicans as much as it was our Democratic friends thinking that the polling data, the conventional wisdom that all of us in this body have heard, that if there's a shutdown, Republicans will pay in the next election. So the conventional wisdom has been going around for some time. It goes back. I recall hearing it after the majority was won here in the House by the Republicans in November of 2010: If there's another shutdown, then we'll get the majority right back from the Republicans. Which always kind of mystified me a little bit because the last shutdown was in '95—that was when it began. And it was 11 more years before the Republicans lost the majority. And Newt Gingrich stayed Speaker for 3 more years. And as a result, the relationship seemed to grow closer, and the President and the Speaker worked more closely together.

But again, that was a different time because then, back in those days, the President would never call over the Speaker of the House to say, I just wanted to remind you here in private, here at the White House, since you took off from your busy day to come over here, I just wanted to remind you basically that I'm not negotiating with you.

Which had to feel a little weird to everybody in the room because everybody in the room knew the President has said, after the next election, you know, he'll be a lot more flexible with the Russians and certainly willing to negotiate with the Russians, certainly willing to negotiate now, as we've seen, with the Iranians, which certainly causes our close allies and friends who are trying to fight radical Islam a lot of concern because they've seen this administration throw one ally after another under the bus. We've heard allies wonder which ones of us may be next under this administration. So how is it the President can work with all these other countries—Russians, Iranians, Syrians—but can't negotiate with Americans?

This is an article from the National Review Online from Charles Cooke. In the article it says:

The Washington Post's Wonkblog is snarking a little about the lack of successful Federal ObamaCare sign-ups. Under a picture of a unicorn, Sarah Kliff writes: "If you have purchased health coverage on the Federal Government's new ObamaCare marketplace, about a dozen or so reporters would like to speak with you. We promise we won't take up too much of your time. We just need to

find you first. The Federal Government has said that somewhere out in this vast country of 313 million people, where 48 million lack insurance coverage, someone has managed to sign up for health insurance on the federally run marketplaces. As of yet, we haven't tracked this person—or these people—down. This is not for lack of effort. Reporters here at The Washington Post and at other publications have been on the hunt for this mythical creature."

Anyway, kind of sarcastic snarking.

This article is from The Daily Caller by Alex Pappas from October 2:

In Tennessee, those shopping on the new health insurance co-ops could end up with more than just some health insurance. They might even walk away with a free smartphone. The Nashville Business Journal is reporting that Community Health Alliance, Tennessee's ObamaCare health insurance co-op, is using the prospect of a free phone to encourage folks to enroll:

"Community Health Alliance, Tennessee's health insurance co-op, is running a unique promotional program to drive enrollment in its plans for sale on the exchange: health insurance in exchange for a smartphone.

"As a part of its Community Health Connection Program, CHA is offering qualified individuals an LG"—that's not Louie Gohmert—"an LG Lucid 2 4G smartphone (or equivalent model), a phone plan, and tech support, included as a cost of their health plan benefits. The phone plan includes unlimited talk, unlimited texting, and 1.2 gigabytes of data."

The article goes on.

This is by the Associated Press in Paris:

Government Shutdown Spreads to the Beaches of Normandy.

Tourists traveling to Omaha Beach to pay their respects to the 9,387 military dead at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial will find it closed, a victim of the U.S. Government's partial shutdown.

We've seen what has happened to this country and what is happening to this country. It's time to stop the suffering. We could let it go through and let people continue to be hurt. I never took an oath to do no harm, but by golly, that's what this Congress should do. Stop the harm. Let's, at least, delay ObamaCare. And in the meantime, we'll keep passing spending bills to keep things going.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2038

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 8 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 75, SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-242) on the resolution (H. Res. 371) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making continuing appropriations for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. TIPTON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today after 3:30 p.m. through October 6 on account of attending his daughter's wedding.

## ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3233. An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 4, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3216. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting