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It has been almost 7 years since the last water resource bill was authorized, stalling progress on local environmental projects, so I am beyond pleased to see the House take up this important bill today.

After passing WRRDA, we need to continue to pressure for the chief support for the Central Everglades Planning Project so that these important projects can move forward as well. In the current no-spending climate in Congress, it is difficult to fight for funding for these critical projects to address the pollution impacting our local waterways, but there is a difference between smart investments and wasteful spending, which is something I have been working hard to tackle these past 10 months.

Infrastructure and environmental projects are not only crucial to improve the health of our waterways but to provide a 3 to 1 return on investment. Furthermore, funding for Everglades projects is equally matched by the State so they, too, have skin in the game, highlighting the importance of cooperation across all levels of government to work towards real solutions to address the challenges facing our waterways.

Mr. Speaker, these issues are simply too important to ignore. That is why I am here today with this bottle of polluted water behind me to show the severity of this ongoing crisis. I remain focused on this issue of great concern to our community, our environment, our economy, and our entire way of life. No one person can make all these things happen. It takes advocacy and action at all levels of government. To that end, I will include a summary of this briefing to be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to educate all Members of Congress on this important issue and the role we all play in addressing it.

OBAMACARE EXCHANGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the failures taking place with the launch of the ObamaCare exchange through healthcare.gov. Since October 1, this Web site has been plagued with delays, errors, and fundamental flaws in the Web site design. This prompted USA Today to call it an "inexcusable mess" and "nightmare." In addition to the technological failure, the Web site leaves Americans open to exposure of privacy information. Buried in the source code of healthcare.gov, a paragraph reads:

You have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any data stored on this information system. At any time, the government may monitor, intercept, search, and seize any data stored on this information system. Any data stored on this information system

may be disclosed or used for any lawful government purpose.

Consumer Reports states:

It's not worth the hassle, at least not for now. Stay away from healthcare.gov for at least another month if you can.

This is not reassuring for Americans entering personal, medical, and financial information onto a government Web site, especially when Congress is still reviewing the IRS for gross mismanagement in collecting private individual information.

John McAfee, founder of McAfee Antivirus, emphasized last Wednesday:

Millions of Americans could have their identities stolen as a result of signing up for ObamaCare.

Despite these major malfunctions and structural defects, the administration still has penalties in place for individuals that don't obtain coverage.

Mr. Speaker, this is not acceptable.

Prior to October 1, my colleagues and I emphasized the inability of the Department of Health and Human Services to implement these exchanges. Therefore, if an individual does not wish to subject themselves to the risk of identity theft, they should be allowed to make that decision without the consequence of fines forced by the Federal Government. That is why I am working on legislation right now to ensure that Americans are not being punished for failing to buy a health care plan from a dysfunctional system.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the Associated Press reported that, to date, only 476,000 people have enrolled. Mind you, that is 476,000 Americans that are left open to identity theft. I would like to point out that this is out of 36 States enrolled in the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace—36 States. At one point, healthcare.gov posted error messages in at least 24 of those 36 States.

Further, according to the USASpending.gov, over \$600 million of taxpayer dollars have been spent setting up these failed exchanges. Mr. Speaker, this is an insult to the American taxpayers.

CGI Group, one of the main contractors for healthcare.gov, reported that the site's design was changed about a month before its debut to prevent users from comparing prices without registering for an account. Why would the administration agree to remove the price comparison option when the President has promised the country affordable health care? It is because, for some, health care rates may become simply unaffordable.

The administration announced they would provide a new "shop and browse" feature to the Web site. However, this new feature is not giving consumers the real price. In some cases, people could end up paying double what they see on the Web site. For example, CBS News ran the numbers for a 48-year-old woman in Charlotte, North Carolina, who is ineligible for subsidies. According to healthcare.gov, she would pay \$231 a month, but the actual plan on the Blue Cross and Blue Shield North

Carolina Web site costs \$360 a month. This is more than a 50 percent increase. The difference: Blue Cross and Blue Shield requests your birth date before providing more accurate estimates, further proving the point that monopolies are problematic as well, especially in North Carolina.

Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are being spent on a system that does not work. Therefore, there is one question we must all ask ourselves: Is the Affordable Care Act really affordable?

CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important before we move into the weeks ahead that we take a minute and ask ourselves what happened last week during the shutdown? What were the consequences of the shutdown? What did the shutdown mean to Americans? It is important to pause and ask, What really happened? Because as the days roll by, people are going to just move on to the next thing.

Let's be clear: this irresponsible shutdown cost the economy \$24 billion in lost economic output, or about 0.6 percent of annualized growth, according to Standard & Poor's. That is \$24 billion of people not making purchases that they had planned to because they thought they had better hold on to their money because they didn't know what was going to happen. That is \$24 billion of businesses that did business with people who were Federal employees who didn't have their check or didn't know if they were going to have it.

I mean, the untold damage that the Republican majority in the House did to this economy is a shameful thing, and they did it for one reason and one reason only: to deny millions of Americans affordable health care. Now, I think that it is important to mark this moment and to be very clear about what happened and the losses we incurred. This economy lost 120,000 jobs, according to the Council of Economic Advisers; 120,000 jobs because of lower demand, because of a number of things. A number of people were losing their livelihood because of the shutdown, again, because the majority in the House sees fit to deny millions of Americans affordable health care.

Now, in the days to come now that the shutdown is over, there is no question they will try to amp up and build up the bugs in the computer system, but thousands of people are getting health care and signing up right now. The news is actually good, and there has never been a system that is new that didn't have problems. In fact, my friends on the Republican side of the aisle, I invite them to go back to Medicare part D, the prescription drug benefit in which they said that Big

Pharma didn't have to compete for prices, they just could demand the price and we had to pay it, the one that created the doughnut hole. In the beginning, there were all kinds of glitches associated with that system.

So, yes, we are working out bugs, but they are being worked out, and there are thousands of people every day who are getting the health care access they never would have had and insurance reform that they never would have had if the Republicans would have had their way.

Also, I just want to make clear that people should know that there were individual stories that occurred that people should never forget. Hundreds of people were furloughed, and thousands more didn't know if they were going to get paid in the month of October. Consider the anxiety that the Republican majority needlessly inflicted on American families, and inflicted it on public employees who serve our country every single day to the best of their ability. People seeking new Social Security cards in Minneapolis found the office closed. That is my district. People saying, Wait a minute, I need a new Social Security card and can't get one because of the Republican shutdown—that was wrong.

The Veterans Administration offices were understaffed, and school trips were canceled because national parks were closed. It was galling to me that as the Republicans shut down the national monuments, they had the audacity, the unmitigated gall, to go to the World War II Memorial and act like somebody shut that memorial down other than them. It is amazing.

I can tell you that this moment, these last 2 weeks that we saw, shouldn't be forgotten. They should be remembered.

I want to thank the 87 sensible Republicans who voted with the Democrats in order to reopen the government, and I just want to let everyone know that we can debate things here. We can try to improve the Affordable Care Act. We can talk about parts that could be better, and we can make it better. I encourage us to do that.

But can we not shut down the government and do damage to the American economy just so we can score a political point and deny health care to thousands of people, perhaps millions of people? Can we work out our differences in the normal course of legislating?

The Republicans know how to change the Affordable Care Act. They even know how to legitimately try to get rid of it through the 45 ways that they offered legislation to destroy or defund or delay ObamaCare. They have done it before, but this time, they didn't go through the normal course. They shut down the government and threatened default, and that was wrong.

I just want people to remember what happened. Maybe we can avoid it in the months ahead, and I certainly hope you will.

OBAMACARE IS DISASTROUS LAW FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to actually agree with President Obama that his signature health care law is indeed much more than a Web site riddled with technical glitches. Just ask any hardworking family in the Second District of Missouri who have seen their premiums skyrocket, wages decreased, insurance coverage canceled of late, and hours cut back at work. The simple truth is the President's Web site is just a sign of what is to come: ObamaCare is a disastrous law for the American people.

One of the most valuable lessons that I have learned over the last 9 months as a new Member of Congress is that more government is never the answer to the problems facing our Nation. ObamaCare makes the real problem of health care costs worse. ObamaCare has made offering health care for small business worse. ObamaCare raises premiums, destroys the doctor-patient relationship, and makes the quality of our health care worse.

When President Obama promised the American people in 2009: "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it," well, we now know that this claim was a blatant falsehood.

Time and time again, the President has only offered broken promises to the American people. President Obama recently spoke in the Rose Garden about who is benefiting from government-run health care; yet he failed to talk about the millions of Americans who are suffering from it.

I would like to take a moment to talk about a small business owner from Missouri's Second District who is facing the harsh realities of ObamaCare. Jenn is the owner of Cotton Babies, a small business that makes high-quality diapers for consumers all over the world. As a result of ObamaCare, her premiums are projected to double, not only putting her livelihood in jeopardy, but her employees' as well. Now Jenn is facing a difficult business decision regarding the employment opportunities and the price of her products going forward.

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Jenn wrote to me recently and said:

We can't afford the change in health care premiums. We manufacture in the USA. We collectively cause the employment of thousands all over the United States. Hundreds of small retailers depend on my brands for revenue. We make American-made cloth diaper brands that help families who literally choose between diapers and food.

Jenn later went on to say:

I believe in affordable health care. I believe in taking care of the needy. We provide great health care insurance to our staff. We pay for 70 percent of the premium for the staff members and their entire family. We operate on microscopic margins and have valued taking care of our employees over taking a prof-

it. I simply don't know how we, as a small business, are going to be able to shoulder the load with these changes.

Madam Speaker and ladies and gentlemen, this is just one of the many examples of real people being hurt by ObamaCare. It is time we realize that no matter how many tech experts President Obama hires to fix his \$600 million-plus taxpayer-paid Web site, it will never stop ObamaCare from hurting the American people.

As your Representative, I will never stop fighting until ObamaCare is replaced with free market-based solutions that expand access without destroying our economy and lowering the quality of care.

THE WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition to express my strong opposition to provisions in the bill before us today that will vastly limit public input and curtail opportunities to save taxpayers money.

The provisions I am speaking about in the WRRDA bill aim to decrease delays and help move projects forward, which sounds great in theory. Who doesn't want to remove bureaucrat red tape? But in reality, what the bill does won't actually fix the problem that holds up so many Army Corps projects.

This bill would strictly limit the environmental review process that has proven time and again to save taxpayer dollars. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works has even testified about this fact before the United States Senate. The real reason for projects being delayed is simply that the Congress authorizes around \$20 billion worth of projects but then only appropriates the funds to cover just \$1 billion in projects.

So let's not try to place all the blame on the environmental review process, a review process that has time and time again saved taxpayer dollars, preserved historic sites, and protected endangered species, all while producing better projects with more public support.

I appreciate the bipartisan work that Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL have done to put together this bill. This is an important piece of legislation that we consider in this House today.

Once the bill has passed in the House, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we conference with the Senate to improve these provisions that will limit public input, increase taxpayer costs, and harm the environment.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). The Chair recognizes the