

critical mission EOD forces play in defending American interests, both at home and abroad. Staff Sergeant Bowden was a patriot who was willing to put himself in the line of fire to defend our country's way of life, and I am proud to have met him.

In September, Staff Sergeant Bowden was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. It is important that we regularly take time to reflect on the sacrifices made by our Nation's servicemen and -women and the veterans who preceded them.

I am honored to have met Staff Sergeant Joshua Bowden, and my thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

DELAY THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, since October 1, millions of Americans have attempted to access Healthcare.gov to try to learn about the health insurance coverage they are required to buy; and every day, we are learning more and more about the problems they are facing. Folks are frustrated, and rightfully so.

I am proud to be part of a bipartisan effort to reform the law by repealing the mandate that employers provide coverage they can't afford and the mandate that individuals buy insurance on their own.

Earlier this year, the administration delayed the employer mandate because businesses across the country just weren't ready, but not the individual mandate. At the very least, our constituents deserve the same relief that the businesses got.

This isn't about pointing fingers. This is about providing some relief to the folks we represent who are facing serious uncertainty because they are being forced to buy something that is just not ready.

I urge my colleagues and the administration to delay the individual mandate. It is not only the right thing to do, it is the only practical thing to do.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS SPENT ON HEALTHCARE.GOV

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great concern over the lack of accountability and transparency we continue to see from the President and his administration as they scramble to fix the problems in the health care exchange and their Web site platform.

Mr. Speaker, we have walked through the tragedy of Benghazi, the abuse of the IRS, the lack of real commitment from the Attorney General. Mr. Speaker, this isn't right. We need a govern-

ment that is transparent, that is willing to tell the truth to the American people.

Three weeks after the rollout of these exchanges, the administration finally has come to Capitol Hill, but they are coming, Mr. Speaker, only to speak to House Democrats. Now figure that out. Where is the transparency there?

The American people deserve to know the truth of what happened with the \$400 million that was spent on a Web site to try to enlist people to join this health care exchange. The American people are being left on the hook for a Web site that cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and they deserve better.

ROLLING ALONG

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is always good to have a number of good news stories for my colleagues and the American people, and I am delighted to have a good news story, which is that the Affordable Care Act is rolling along. I recognize that the most important aspect of this law is that Americans, like Kendall Brown in Oklahoma City, are having their lives changed in front of their eyes.

She writes to the President that she has Crohn's disease and she has already benefited from the Affordable Care Act by being able to stay on her parents' insurance, but now she is able to enroll. And she wrote in this letter that as individuals are debating to delay the individual mandate—she said:

Mr. President, if they do it, then this is the last letter that you will receive from me because I will be dead by the time I am 27 years old.

So the good news is, my friends, enroll. You can use 1-800-318-2596—30,000 calls and only 20 seconds in wait time. You can use the navigators. You can use the outreach efforts. You can even get on the Web and be educated. 1-800-318-2596.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the fact that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In my home State of Michigan, breast cancer is currently the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women, and it is the most frequently diagnosed cancer for women in Michigan.

I served as a doctor for 30 years in northern Michigan. I am all too familiar with how devastating breast cancer is for patients and their friends and their loved ones. Thankfully, early de-

tection rates have increased and mortality rates have decreased nationwide.

This is partially due to the hard work of the doctors, nurses, and medical professionals who are involved in diagnosing and treating this illness and in coming up with innovative new treatment options. This improvement is also due to the fundraising, outreach, and public awareness efforts of the groups like the Michigan Breast Cancer Coalition and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

However, there is still much work left to be done. I urge all of my colleagues and all of my constituents to raise awareness of breast cancer and to take the steps necessary in order to detect this terrible disease. I encourage all women to be sure they are up to date on their mammograms.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, Congress must act without delay to provide certainty to employers, keep families together, and ensure that all children raised here in America have access to affordable higher education.

Less than a decade ago, it might have been impossible to imagine that so many businesses, farmworkers, labor leaders, educators, and even politicians would come together to support comprehensive reform of our broken immigration system, a system that no longer reflects our values or national interests.

The American public has reached consensus, as has the United States Senate. It is time for Members of the House to put aside their differences and pass a bill that grows the economy, creates a modernized immigration system, enhances our security, and creates an achievable path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

I encourage the leadership to bring comprehensive, commonsense, and compassionate immigration reform legislation to the House floor this fall. Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today's much-anticipated and greatly needed water resources bill will allow our Nation to develop and maintain our economically vital ports and waterways and will support flood protection and environmental restoration efforts.

As a water-centered State, Florida is uniquely impacted by the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. We have 16 seaports which contributed \$96.6 billion to the economy last year, and our maritime cargo industry supports more than 680,000 jobs.

Florida has invested millions in our ports in preparation for the expansion of the Panama Canal, and this bill before us today is a complement to Florida's investment in world-class maritime infrastructure. Without this bill, Florida and, indeed, our Nation, as a whole, are at risk of losing jobs to nearby foreign ports and their ready or soon-to-be ready deep draft harbors.

Simply put, this bipartisan water resources bill will create good American jobs and will grow local economies. Let's pass it, Mr. Speaker.

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JOBS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Congress finally took action to end a painful, unnecessary government shutdown that cost our economy \$24 billion, forced hundreds of thousands of Federal workers to stay home, and brought us to the brink of defaulting on the full faith and credit of the United States.

While the hardworking men and women I serve in Rhode Island's First District are relieved that Congress finally did its job, they want all of us to get back to work on addressing the urgent challenges facing our Nation—creating jobs, strengthening the economy, fixing our broken immigration system, repairing our crumbling infrastructure, and finding responsible ways to reduce the Federal debt.

Like all Americans, Rhode Islanders want their elected officials to get beyond the political battles of the moment and work together on implementing effective policies and innovative solutions that will put our country on the right track and get Americans back to work.

Over the past several years, the House has voted over and over again on bills that would repeal ObamaCare, restrict reproductive freedom for women, weaken critical environmental standards, and limit collective bargaining rights for workers, even though there is no chance these divisive proposals would ever be signed into law. It is time now to get things done.

Each of us should commit to abandoning the partisan rhetoric and working as colleagues to overcome the challenges facing our country and those we have the privilege to represent here in the Congress.

OBAMACARE AFFECTING GEORGIANS

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, now that ObamaCare has had 23 days of what has been a disastrous rollout and hundreds of thousands of

Americans are getting health insurance cancellation notices, I want to give you a couple of examples of what is happening in Georgia.

In our State, the news is not good. One constituent tells me:

Not only are premiums higher, but we have to pay more out of pocket. We will end up spending about \$500 to \$600 a year on durable medical supplies that have always been covered 100 percent. That does not help the middle class.

Another shared the news that he recently learned from his employer:

My premiums are going up over \$1,200 a year, my deductible is going up by over \$1,000 a year, and my out-of-pocket maximum will move from \$3,500 to \$6,500.

That is more than a house payment for many Georgians, Mr. Speaker.

These are hardworking, middle class families in my district who were promised by the President that if they like their insurance, they could keep their current health plans. Now these plans are more expensive and my constituents have less coverage. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Contrary to the President's promises, ObamaCare is driving up costs, threatening jobs, and kicking Georgians out of the plans they like and were promised they could keep.

REMEMBERING FORMER CONGRESSMAN MAJOR OWENS

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

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week, New York City lost a Brooklyn original and our Nation lost a tireless champion for the powerless.

Representative Major Owens' district included parts of my current district, and I can attest firsthand that he was beloved throughout Brooklyn.

A librarian before entering politics, service to community was simply part of who he was—and that is reflected by his accomplishments. His work led to the creation of the YouthBuild initiative at HUD, which, to this day, creates opportunity for thousands of disadvantaged youth through construction in low-income communities.

Major will also be remembered for his work on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Always a voice for the voiceless, he shepherded that historic bill to enactment, creating a more just society for millions of Americans.

He is, perhaps, the only Member of Congress known for composing rap lyrics. Performing at open mic sessions, he spoke to the issues of our time, addressing peace, war, poverty, and social justice through the power of hip-hop.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in New York and Brooklyn today mourn the loss of a neighbor, while our Nation honors the passing of its public servant.

I hope all my colleagues join me in paying tribute to and remembering our friend and former colleague, Major Owens.

OPEN ACCESS WEEK

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of greater accessibility to taxpayer-funded research.

This week is Open Access Week in America, and I am proud to be a lead cosponsor of the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act, better known as FASTR.

Access to scientific research maximizes research investments and improves the quality of science while assuring transparency and efficient use of tax dollars. Simply put, taxpayers should not have to pay for taxpayer-funded research over and over again.

Policies like FASTR have been a tremendous success already at the National Institutes of Health, and some of the best research institutions in America, like my alma mater, the University of Kansas, have helped lead the charge by instituting open access policies of their own.

Now it is time to make open access the law of the land for all publicly funded research. I urge my colleagues to make a real impact on the quality of science and lifesaving research conducted in America, and urge them to cosponsor and support the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an opportunity to stand with the millions of victims who have suffered in silent fear in their own homes.

Approximately three women are killed each day as a result of domestic violence, according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence. While our country has made enormous strides in combating domestic violence, gaps in Federal law leave millions vulnerable. In this Nation, one in six women will find themselves a victim of stalking in their lifetime. Many of these encounters turn violent and, tragically, women are hurt or killed by their stalkers because of a glaring loophole in Federal law.

Under current law, convicted stalkers of "intimate partners" are prohibited from possessing firearms, but women who have had no romantic relationship with their stalker are left unprotected.

I have introduced the Protecting Victims of Stalking Act, legislation that would address this glaring loophole and prevent stalkers under restraining orders from purchasing firearms. I hope you will join me in this effort to reaffirm our commitment to protecting the victims of domestic violence.