

under the law. Additionally, it remains a huge concern that FEMA does not have the data it needs to accurately determine risk under this new policy regime and is incapable of creating a new mapping system that truly reflects true actuarial rates.

While 80 percent of policyholders will not see increases as a result of the new policy, a small portion of properties are being hit with staggering increases. This is a serious concern for communities and individuals across the country, including many from the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, which I am proud to represent.

I joined yesterday with colleagues on both sides of the aisle as an original cosponsor of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, legislation to delay, for 2 years, the higher rates brought on by the 2012 law until there is an affordability study completed by FEMA. The bill also makes structural changes at FEMA to assure that there is an advocate for homeowners when flood maps are drawn or adjusted.

Mr. Speaker, improving the financial viability of the Nation's Flood Insurance Program while ensuring that the program protects those it was designed to support is something every Member of Congress should support. I encourage my colleagues to join in this common-sense effort to protect and improve our Nation's Flood Insurance Program by cosponsoring the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again, we come to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

Today, we mourn the loss of former Congressman Ike Skelton, a true public servant and staunch supporter of our military. May he and his family find solace and peace at this time. Bring each of us, at last, to that place where our hearts will rest in You.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANKFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, President Obama made a promise his administration had no intention of keeping:

If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.

Today's Washington Post bestows upon this moment of rhetorical splendor, and others like it, four Pinocchios for the grievousness and frequency of their erring.

It turns out, by design, the Affordable Care Act is diminishing private health insurance plans, particularly in the individual market.

The Post concludes:

The President's promise apparently came with a very large caveat: "If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan—if we deem it to be adequate."

For millions, Washington has deemed their personal health care preferences deficient, and come January they won't have access to the plans they had before.

Americans deserve better.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

My first real job back in 1993 was at a domestic violence shelter. I was in college studying to become a social worker. During my time at the shelter, I helped women and children at our shelter escape the cycle of abuse. Some women came through our doors again and again before finally getting free.

That is why I worked hard to pass the Violence Against Women Act for these very families. Yet too often, women in our country escape their abusers for only a short time. Some abusers track down women and children in order to keep the cycle of abuse going.

VAWA helps these families stay safe from their abusers, like Jane, who lives in Phoenix with her three kids. Jane and her kids fled their home State and moved to Arizona to escape their abuser. He had been chasing Jane and the kids for years, following them from home to shelter to their next home. Jane couldn't get away from him. When she came to Arizona, Arizona's Address Confidentiality Program provided her with an alternative address to use legally instead of her real address. It prevented her abuser from finding her. Thanks to VAWA Jane is safe.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will all double down to end domestic violence in this country.

HONORING RUTH HERRINK

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and the spirit of a true community leader, Ruth Herrink. Ruth served as the editor and publisher of the King George Journal in King George County, Virginia.

Ruth passed away on Saturday, October 12, at the age of 87 after decades of service to her community.

Ruth was "indomitable," in the words of her daughter, Jessica, and "always wanted to promote things that were positive for the community."

The communities in and around King George County and our great Commonwealth of Virginia have lost an eminent spirit that connected and energized those around her.

Ruth's daughter, Jessica, will assume her mother's duties at the King George Journal and no doubt has a difficult, yet wonderful, challenge ahead of her to continue in the spirit of Ruth's intentions for the community.

My condolences extend to Ruth's family and the entire community of King George County.

To truly honor Ruth, we can all learn from her example and her passion to truly improve her community and the lives of those around her.

PROTECT THE ECONOMY AND SUPPORT AMERICAN JOBS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare for the district work period, I urge my colleagues to dial down the partisan rhetoric that shut down our government and take the time to listen to the folks you came to Washington to represent.

Americans have been saying they want us to do all we can to protect the economy and support American jobs, not threaten them.

This week, I introduced H.R. 3327, the Veterans Work Opportunity Act, and H.R. 3328, the American Work Opportunity Act, which aim to get more veterans and unemployed Americans back to work by offering tax credits to businesses who will hire them.

Next week, I will be meeting with small business owners, manufacturers, and constituents around my district as part of my Second Congressional District Economic Development Tour. Here we will discuss what Congress can do to support our communities and grow American jobs.

The family businesses I represent in Kankakee and the manufacturers I represent in Chicago both say the same thing: "Business as usual in Washington doesn't help business back home." I couldn't agree more.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3327 and H.R. 3328 and work civilly to get our economy back on track.

OBAMACARE WEB SITE

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, the ObamaCare Web site has been a nuisance. People spend hours of wasted time trying to get on it, trying to get information they cannot get information on.

This has moved far beyond just a nuisance of trying to get on a Web site. Now people are discovering the new cost increases that are happening, and over a million people have already received a cancellation notice for their insurance.

Let me just give you a couple of those from my district:

The Evans Law Firm has 17 people involved in their small law firm. That firm received a cancellation notice, not because their insurance was not up to the standards that the President has set, but because it grouped together with other policies, and now that is no longer going to be available to them, so they have to go out on the market. The cheapest they have found so far is a 25 percent increase to them.

Another business owner has notified me they are going to pay a 13.5 percent increase in their insurance next year because their current insurance doesn't

have pediatric care in it. None of the employees there have children, so of course they haven't had insurance for pediatric care. This would be the equivalent of having a car in your driveway and waking up the next morning and some government official has switched the car to a better car and you get the bill for the more expensive car because they didn't like your car.

This does not help the families at home.

OBAMACARE WEB SITE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have heard some of the testimony of Secretary Sebelius and to understand that we should be in this business, all of us, in serving the American public to fix problems and make, in essence, things work—put the wheels on.

We are going to ensure that this Web site is fixed by the end of November, the beginning of December—the same kind of problems that happened with Medicare part D.

In actuality, rather than using anecdotal stories, let me tell you that the President was, in fact, right that you can grandfather and keep your same insurance. But if your same medical insurance was similar to a subprime mortgage loan that had no value whatsoever, as most Americans know, and you are getting an improved medical coverage insurance, then you get new insurance.

As in California and other places where States have their own insurance exchange, we have seen a 29 percent decrease in insurance premiums.

The real issue is what we are doing in sequester and budgeting and the loss of the researchers at the NIH. It is a disgrace. We need to get to work on serious issues so that we can put this country back to work.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As a former prosecutor, I believe we should do everything in our power to raise the awareness of domestic violence and to protect and empower the victims of these crimes.

In the seven counties I represent in northeast Ohio, over 1,500 people sought shelter last year to escape domestic violence. Sadly, some of them were children.

For these women and children, it is crucial that we in Congress pass laws to protect them. That is why I was one of the first supporters of the Violence Against Women Act earlier this year. It is a bill that provides critical serv-

ices for victims of violence and provides law enforcement officials the resources to better protect and assist them.

Together we must stand up against domestic violence and enforce a zero tolerance policy both here in Washington and at home in our communities.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in this bipartisan effort to raise the awareness of this important issue.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

While we have made great strides in fighting domestic violence, we still have a long way to go. Over one-third of women have experienced rape, violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

As a former prosecutor, who has worked with hundreds of women victims of domestic violence, I know that holding their batterer responsible is important to them, but almost more important is making sure that we have the victim services necessary after the batterer is held responsible. That is more important for their pathway to healing.

I am proud to support the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. Back home in the East Bay, we are fortunate to have places for women to go for those victim services. For example, Ruby's Place, in Hayward, California, is a shelter helping hundreds of domestic violence survivors. I visited Ruby's Place in April. I saw the care, compassion, and concern that the employees there showed to women and families who are desperately in need of assistance.

Shelters like Ruby's Place provide a lifeline to women across the country, and those places count on the Federal Government to help them.

Hopefully, recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month is one important step to helping places like Ruby's Place.

OBAMACARE: AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today, the Secretary of Health and Human Services said to Americans that we deserve better than what we have gotten with ObamaCare. America sure does deserve better.

This is the first time in the history of our country that American citizens have been forced to purchase a product that they do not want and which they