

by having you in our family, and we are looking forward to the great future God has planned for you.

I am so glad that we will be able to see each other this weekend and celebrate, when many other fathers and mothers abroad have to wait months to celebrate with their own kids.

Birthdays and holidays give us another chance to pause and remember them this year. Thank you, veterans.

And happy birthday, Kaden.

BLACKOUT RULES ARE UNFAIR

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, the Federal Communications Commission chair put forth a proposal to end government support for sports blackouts. This is a welcome step in the fight to end blackouts once and for all.

In my home community of western New York, there is a threat of a blackout for the next two home games. This means that, despite overwhelming community support, money spent on merchandise, and tax dollars being spent for stadium improvements, Buffalo fans will not be able to see their NFL team on television.

On Tuesday I introduced the Furthering Access and Networks for Sports, or FANS, Act, which would eliminate these harmful blackouts once and for all. Senators BLUMENTHAL and MCCAIN introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, blackout rules are unfair, outdated, and alienate fans. I will continue to fight until sports teams do the right thing for their fans.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BROKEN PROMISE

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the President's broken health care promise. The President promised over and over again that Americans who like their health care plans could keep them, but that is just not true.

Here is what Wendy from my district wrote me:

My BlueCross BlueShield policy will be canceled due to ObamaCare starting March 1, 2014. I checked out other policy options under ObamaCare and the least expensive qualifying plan was an additional \$208.44 per month. This is with a higher deductible, larger out-of-pocket expense, and only three doctor visits per year per person. This is outrageous. Additionally, this rate only includes me and my three children, not even my husband. I guess we can't even keep a family together under ObamaCare.

As Wendy's story exemplifies, and as we predicted since 2010, ObamaCare is fundamentally flawed in concept and execution. Dictated government health care cannot beat free-market choices.

And as a health care professional, I will continue to do all that I can to protect the American people from ObamaCare.

VETERANS TOUR

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the recent veterans tour I conducted across my region of Illinois.

Last week I traveled to all corners of my district to meet with local veterans and listen to their priorities and to their concerns. I held listening roundtables with veterans to talk about ways we can cut down on the shameful backlog of VA claims, to make sure that veterans have access to good-paying jobs, to education, and to job training programs, and to put an end to veterans' homelessness.

I also worked a shift at the Sterling, Illinois, VA Clinic, where I shadowed nurses and saw firsthand new technology that help veterans have access to treatment closer to home.

And, finally, I interviewed Leland Chandler for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Mr. Chandler is a World War II veteran from Galesburg, Illinois, who was a prisoner of war in the Pacific Theater. He received many awards and decorations for his brave service to our Nation. He is a true American hero, and I am honored to share his story with the public.

During my time in Congress, I have made veterans my top priority, and I will continue to fight to protect the benefits that they have worked so hard to achieve.

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AMERICANS LOSING THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about Debbie Brown, who is from Garfield County in Washington State. She has a daughter and two grandchildren and is 53 years old. She works at the local gas station to help support her family. A few weeks ago, she was one of many who were told that, as of December 31, 2013, her health insurance plan would no longer be available. She has looked at other plans and hasn't found one that is affordable, so she is uninsured now.

Unfortunately, her story is too common; and it is repeated all across this country, heartbreaking stories of everyday, average, hardworking Americans losing their health insurance. We can do better. Too many Americans are receiving cancellation notices; too many Americans are losing their doctors; and too many Americans don't have affordable health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act.

Madam Speaker, 3.5 million Americans have seen their plans canceled, almost 300,000 in Washington State alone. President Obama promised the American people, if you liked your health care plan, you could keep it—not, if he liked your plan, you could keep it.

Let's support the legislation tomorrow.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to call on the House to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support. It is a bill with a simple premise: that people should be hired, fired, and assessed based on their capabilities and job performance, not on prejudice. It would take the common-sense step of extending Federal employment nondiscrimination protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

I spent a decade working in economic development, and the research by Richard Florida and others is pretty clear. One of the prime drivers of economic growth is tolerance, and yet, in 29 States, it is legal to fire an employee because of sexual orientation. The rights granted in my State shouldn't end at our borders.

Failure to act on this doesn't make economic sense; it doesn't make legislative sense; and it doesn't make moral sense.

But I am not here just as an economic developer. I am here as someone whose faith dictates that I love and respect all people and live by the Golden Rule, and I am here as a dad of two little girls. I want my daughters to grow up in a country where discrimination is a thing of the past, where folks can't be treated differently because of their gender or who they love. It is time to pass ENDA.

NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, President Rouhani of Iran is doing exactly what he was put in power to do: get the Obama administration to weaken international economic sanctions.

Our sanctions, Madam Speaker, are working. Unfortunately, Secretary Kerry and this administration have been chasing an agreement with Iran that relaxes sanctions and allows Iran to continue enriching material and developing their heavy-water reactor. This is an outcome that the regime in Tehran desires, and they won't have to make any concessions to get it.

Madam Speaker, the tentative deal does nothing to address Iran's sponsorship of terrorist organizations, like Hezbollah, nor does it deal with their overt persecution of religious minorities in Iran or their vast human rights abuses. As Prime Minister Netanyahu stated, "This is a very, very bad deal."

The administration needs to stop negotiating bad deals and cease their efforts to block a new round of sanctions.

TRIBUTE TO LEONEL J. CASTILLO: EDUCATOR, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, AND HOUSTON'S FIRST HISPANIC ELECTED

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, over this last weekend, we celebrated the life of Leonel J. Castillo: educator, civil rights activist, and Houston's first Hispanic elected official, but—a truly—wonderful and deserving and outstanding American.

I rise today to pay tribute to Leonel J. Castillo, a legendary pioneer figure in the history of Houston and, as I said, the first Hispanic elected to public office in Houston. He died on November 4, 2013.

But this weekend, we had a chance to be with his family and to celebrate his life, to name a neighborhood center after him, to hear the testimonies regarding his passion and his love of bringing people together, and to hear about his love for his family.

He was inspired by President John F. Kennedy and joined the Peace Corps, where he met his wonderful, beautiful wife, Evelyn, and had two children: a daughter, Avalyn, and a son, Efrem. He met his wife in the Philippines. And we know today that we are praying for all of them in the Philippines.

Leonel, of course, in 1967, moved his family back to Houston. We are so delighted. He served as the director of SER-Jobs for Progress. In 1971, he was elected comptroller of the city of Houston. When nominated for INS Commissioner President Carter said:

"He is a man who has the highest possible reputation. He is a public administrator, and I think I can tell you that he is going to take on one of the most difficult jobs in government."

Mr. Castillo, a great American succeeded in that job and all that he did.

We thank you, Leonel Castillo, as you served the United States Government and all of America well. May you rest in peace.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH PLAN

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

Mr. JOYCE. Madam Speaker, despite promises that, if you liked your current health plan, you could keep it, millions of Americans have already received cancellation notices regarding

current coverage. No matter how you feel about the Affordable Care Act, Ohioans that like their health care coverage should be able to keep it.

I have received countless emails and letters from Ohioans losing their coverage or being forced to pay more. One Ohioan who reached out to me because he was concerned about how higher costs could affect his family was Karl from Newbury, Ohio. Karl and his wife have six kids, recently bought a house, and stay busy because, not only is Karl a full-time employee, he is a full-time student.

Karl and his wife recently received a notice that their family would have to pay 30 to 40 percent more for their health care coverage next year. Now Karl and his wife are worried because they won't be able to afford the mortgage on their new home because of the increased health care costs.

Madam Speaker, Ohioans shouldn't be forced to pay more for health care because of a law coming out of Washington. That is why, this week, the House will vote for the Keep Your Health Plan Act, which will allow plans available on the individual market today to continue to be offered next year. It is a commonsense bill that will protect Americans from losing or paying more for their coverage, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS

(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. Madam Speaker, when the Affordable Care Act was first enacted, the American people were promised that, if they liked their coverage, they could keep it. Despite those assurances, millions of Americans who are happy with their insurance coverage are finding out they won't get to keep their coverage.

I am proud to cosponsor legislation, offered by my Republican colleague from Michigan, committee Chairman FRED UPTON, that gives the folks in my district in Georgia the opportunity to keep their current health insurance plan. I hope we will pass that legislation this week.

Many Americans don't feel well served by the limited health insurance options available in the exchanges, and people resent being misled by their elected officials about their options. It is important for us to give the American people the option to choose which plans work best for them, and this bill will help.

KEEP THE PLAN YOU LIKE

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the thousands of Pennsylvanians from my district who

are going to lose their health care coverage because of the rules and regulations of ObamaCare. I invited a number of them into my office, and their stories were both revealing and heart-breaking.

A small business woman from Newtown Square shared her story of shopping for a new plan after her policy was canceled. She must now pay more each month for a plan she doesn't like and coverage she does not want. Yet another is losing her doctor after more than 20 years because she was forced to switch insurance companies. Her long-term doctor isn't covered under the new, more expensive plan. And one constituent received this letter from her insurance company, informing her that she would have to pay as much as \$3,500 more. It has higher deductibles and higher copays.

Madam Speaker, Americans are already struggling in this economy. Tomorrow the House will vote to ensure that the families that like their plans can keep them. President Obama and Senate Democrats should keep their promise to the American people and do the same.

THE BORDER PATROL PAY REFORM ACT

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of representing more than 2,500 Border Patrol agents in El Paso, Texas. They are a big reason why our border with Mexico is as secure as it has ever been, and they help keep El Paso the safest city in the United States; it was this year, the year before, and the year before that.

Now, despite their successful track record, their vigilance at our borders with Mexico and Canada, and the tough conditions under which they work, they are working with an antiquated, unfair, and inflexible pay system. That is why I am happy to work across the aisle with the gentleman from Utah, Representative CHAFFETZ, to introduce H.R. 3463, the Border Patrol Pay Reform Act. This provides a fair, flexible, and fiscally responsible way to compensate our Border Patrol agents. It allows management to deploy resources where they are most needed; it gives our agents some predictability in their work schedule; and it saves the American taxpayer over \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

During a time of sequester and tight budgets, we need to use existing resources as judiciously as we can. I think this bill accomplishes that while supporting our Border Patrol agents. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

CANCELED HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the