

EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, as we mark National Transgender Day of Remembrance, I rise in support of H.R. 1755, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Earlier this month, the Senate made history by passing employment protections for transgender workers for the first time ever. This bipartisan legislation is about one thing: ensuring that all Americans, regardless of who they are or who they love, are treated with the dignity and equality that they deserve.

Last week, I heard from a teenager constituent in New Hampshire who would be deeply impacted by this bill. This courageous young man is just beginning to search for his first job, but he is worried that he will be at a significant disadvantage right off the bat because he is transgender.

Finding a job in tough economic times is hard enough without the obstacle of discrimination. We must work toward becoming a country that rewards the hard work of every person, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, another preventable tragedy: a young man searching for psychiatric help is turned away. According to news reports, just 24 hours before this deadly incident, the young man underwent an emergency psychiatric evaluation but could not get the inpatient treatment he so desperately needed. His story ended like too many others suffering from serious illness—in a violent death.

Why did the system fail him? One, there were no psychiatric beds available. In 1955, there were 550,000 beds; today, there are fewer than 40,000. Two, the standard to make sure a mentally ill person gets treatment is unworkable. Three, Federal laws like HIPAA and FERPA prevent information from being shared.

I am introducing legislation next month to fix the problems that have plagued the Nation's mental health system for decades. It will increase inpatient options and make sure people get the treatment they need. We have to advance this so we have a key to unlock the door.

I ask my colleagues to join me in working for these mental health reforms so that families can share the joy of recovery instead of the sadness of loss.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

One of my constituents, Alan Holbrook of Groton, Massachusetts, lost his wife this year after their family endured her 8-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. Bernadette Holbrook was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at 57. Alan left his job to lovingly take care of her.

He is not alone. For every person with Alzheimer's, there are approximately two to three others that generously give unpaid care.

Alzheimer's is a disease that disproportionately impacts women. Nearly two-thirds of those with the disease are women, and that number is growing. Today, 5 million people in this country suffer from the disease, and it will likely be an estimated 15 million by 2025.

This disease not only exacts a tremendous physical and emotional toll, but a financial one as well. In 2013, the estimated direct costs just to take care of those with Alzheimer's were \$203 billion.

Mr. Speaker, for the Holbrooks and the millions of those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, we must dedicate ourselves towards curing and preventing this disease.

IF YOU LIKE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN, YOU CAN KEEP IT—WITHOUT THE FINE PRINT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, if you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it—without the fine print.

The American people were told repeatedly by the President that if they liked their health insurance plan, they could keep it. This pledge didn't come with an asterisk, a footnote, or other fine print. Now, after millions of Americans are receiving cancellation notices from their preferred health care plans, the White House is doing its best to insert fine print into this pledge where none ever existed.

The original pledge wasn't that most Americans could keep their health care plan or that others would lose their plans and be given coverage that the government thought was better for them. Instead, the White House is making excuses for why thousands of people in my district are losing their preferred coverage.

I ask for the administration to stop making excuses and looking for ways to take my constituents' policies away. My constituents deserve the truth and real solutions.

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PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I welcomed Rhode Island volunteers from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to the United States Capitol and discussed their concerns about our commitment to fighting this terrible disease.

According to the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, 45,000 new cases of pancreatic cancer will be diagnosed this year. About 38,000 men, women, and children across our Nation will die from this disease over this same period of time.

While our scientific and medical communities have made enormous strides in the fight against other forms of disease, the fact is that more than 90 percent of pancreatic cancer patients will die within 5 years of diagnosis.

We have to do more to make it easier for doctors to catch this disease early and develop treatments that will improve the prognosis for patients with pancreatic cancer. I applaud the men and women of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network today for their ongoing work in the fight against this disease, and I look forward to working with them to support continued research and the development of new forms of treatment that will benefit all those whose lives are touched by cancer.

WHERE ARE THE OBAMACARE SAVINGS?

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Steven from Salisbury, North Carolina, wrote to tell that the insurance that has served his family well is going to be canceled. In its place, he has been pointed to an ObamaCare alternative. However, it will cost \$523 more each month. Steven finds that unbelievable. He writes:

In return for this increase, I get coverage I do not need. This one-size-fits-all insurance is paternalistic and restricting the choices of American citizens.

Doug, who is also from Salisbury, was told his health insurance plan doesn't pass ObamaCare muster either. A similar government-sanctioned policy will cost him 200 percent more each month. Doug wants to know:

Where is the savings President Obama told me I would enjoy? As a single male with a suffering small business and a monthly mortgage, I simply can't afford this.

Steven and Doug know better than Washington bureaucrats what coverage will best meet their family and individual needs. They want the freedom to continue making that choice, the freedom to keep the plans they like, for good.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week there was a ribbon cutting at Miami International Airport for 36 new customer service kiosks. While this was greeted as good news, there is still a great unanswered question: What happens to all the customer service workers that machines like this replace?

It is the same story at grocery stores, drugstores, toll booths, and so on. Customer service jobs that used to be gateways to the middle class are increasingly being replaced with technology.

Mr. Speaker, this is not bad news. Time-saving technologies must be created, constructed, maintained, and repaired—and this takes human labor as well, but we must train our workforce to perform these jobs. This is the essence of the skills gap that is afflicting our communities. By cutting job training programs, reckless budget cuts like the sequester are making it harder to close the skills gap and, in turn, reduce unemployment. The mantra of this Congress should be jobs, jobs, jobs.

ENSURING AMERICANS CAN KEEP THEIR HEALTH PLAN

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to tell the story of one of my constituents, Jane, whose health care plan was canceled in the wake of ObamaCare. Here is a recent email she sent to me:

I am a 61-year-old woman with a husband on Medicare. The day before the exchange opened, I received a letter from BlueCross/BlueShield informing me my policy is no longer available. The policy that is closest in coverage is approximately 50 percent higher in premiums and had an almost 50 percent higher deductible. I feel it is extremely unfair that I was told I could keep my coverage if I liked it. I will also have to pay substantially more for the same coverage. I wonder if the administration ever thought about those of us who have to pay for our health coverage with no extra help and how much more we would be paying.

Mr. Speaker, this House passed H.R. 3350 so Jane and others can keep the plan they want and can afford. The Senate must act and not cover for the President, who conceded he broke his promise to Americans. Let's give good news to Americans.

PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, since this Congress convened, it has done nothing to help create jobs. In fact, through ill-advised and overenthusiastic cutting, the sequester, the shutdown, the threat to our full faith and credit, this Congress has destroyed jobs.

Mr. Speaker, what if I told you there was a jobs bill just sitting waiting to be passed that would add almost \$1 trillion to our economy in a 10-year period? What if I told you this jobs bill would create 121,000 new jobs every single year for 10 years? What if I told you that this would also make us a more humane Nation that would stop the breakup of families and the deportations of moms and dads, of Dreamers? What if I told you that this jobs plan got 68 votes in the United States Senate, a divided United States Senate.

Of course, I am describing the comprehensive immigration bill, which the Speaker of this House refuses to bring up. There is no principled, no logical objection to this thing. There are just scare tactics that people with funny accents and names you can't pronounce will come and take your job. That is not true. It is time to pass that jobs bill.

MORE BROKEN PROMISES

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, American families are watching the train wreck of the President's health care reform law coming down the track at them each and every day.

Promises were made by the President and by supporters of the law that if you like your plan, you can keep it. Promises were made that family plans would cost \$2,500 a year less under ObamaCare. Those promises just weren't true.

David in Carroll County wrote me just this morning to let me know what his family is going through with their health insurance. David is self-employed and is married with three children. He likes his family plan. He doesn't think it is substandard in any way, but his family just got a cancellation notice.

Mr. Speaker, they won't get to keep the plan they like. His new plan, which the Federal Government says that they have to buy, will cost \$400 more per month, an increase of almost \$5,000 more per year, not a decrease as the President promised.

David's family is just a hardworking, middle class family trying to make ends meet. Mr. Speaker, David and his family deserve better than broken promises.

BENEFITS OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tout the very real benefits of ObamaCare.

Karrie Brooks, a resident in my district, wrote to me saying:

The individual coverage that I could afford as a healthy 54-year-old woman has been \$418 a month with a \$5,000 deductible. I avoided going to the doctor mostly for fear that if I

used the insurance, my policy would be canceled.

She goes on to say:

Recently, Anthem let me know that I would have to change to a compliant plan. The plan they suggested is similar, but it will cost me \$53 less each month. Yes, less. Most important, I know that it cannot be canceled. The peace of mind and security that these changes have given me is huge.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in decades, a single illness or accident will not plunge American families into financial ruin. The positive effects of ObamaCare are real, and Americans like Karrie Brooks are evidence of that.

DECREASING SPENDING

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, yesterday The Washington Times reported that the U.S. is now spending millions on life skills and art seminars for prisoners at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The paper said a multi-million dollar Federal contract is teaching Gitmo detainees basic landscaping, calligraphy, and Microsoft PowerPoint, among other seminars and library services.

Last July, the Comptroller of the Defense Department reported that the cost of keeping Guantanamo prison open during 2013 would be an astounding \$454 million for just 164 prisoners. This comes out to roughly \$2.7 million per year for each one of these detainees held in the prison camp. This compares to \$72,000 per year per prisoner in Federal high security prisons. Because the Federal Government is so wasteful and inefficient, States are housing State prisoners for half that amount.

The taxpayers of this Nation should not be forced to spend \$454 million to give the good life to former terrorists. They should be sent to the most unpleasant prison in the U.S., but this and other abuses of U.S. taxpayers will continue until we drastically downsize the Federal Government and greatly decrease its funding.

PROPOSALS TO CREATE JOBS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, recently the Republican leadership handed out a blank piece of paper labeled "Agenda 2014." Blank means no goals, no plan, no immigration reform, no jobs, no nothing.

Well, I have a list of proposals that I would like to write on that blank slate, proposals that would create jobs, grow the economy, and strengthen the middle class. So I will start today by introducing commonsense legislation that achieves these objectives and invests in our country's ability to compete in the 21st century.