

premiums increase, insurance is lost, and patients lose access to their doctors, we must work together to continue to replace ObamaCare with positive plans, as long introduced by Congressman Dr. TOM PRICE.

Small businessowners such as the late J.W. Hendrix warned of Big Government abuses' denying young people opportunity to fulfill the American Dream.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the New Markets Tax Credit program which is set to expire at the end of this year.

This program has proven critical toward making successful investments in communities like my own in western New York. In the city of Buffalo, New Markets investments have leveraged over \$180 million for projects, including restoration of historic Electric Tower and the development of the Innovation Center on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. Thanks to New Markets Tax Credit-leveraged funding, construction is currently underway on Roswell Park Cancer Institute's new Clinical Sciences Center.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our economy is recovering from collapse, support for programs that yield economic development and job creation is more critical than ever. I have joined my colleagues in seeking a permanent extension of this program, and I encourage our other colleagues to join us in the same pursuit.

OBAMACARE AND CHOICES

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about choices. For my constituents, ObamaCare is about tough choices and about unfair choices.

Barbara from Indianapolis recently logged on to my Web site to share her ObamaCare story, which is about her choices. She's a single mom trying to give her daughter the gift of a college education in a tough economy. President Obama's holiday gift to her, however, was a \$200 increase in her monthly premium. Barbara wrote:

For a single mother trying to put her child through college, it's too much. Where do I cut? My daughter's education? Medical coverage? A place to live? Food?

For Barbara, the choices posed by the increased premium posed by ObamaCare are tough and unfair. Too many of my constituents are being forced to make these same unfair

choices. They shouldn't have to choose between paying for college or paying for health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, our choice is clear: the law is not working. Barbara and her daughter deserve a better path forward.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking with just 8 legislative days left this year, but I believe there's still time to bring comprehensive immigration reform to this floor for a vote.

There is an incredible group of people that are fasting on the National Mall as a plea to us to pass some form of comprehensive immigration. Today marks day 22 of their fast, but their faith and commitment to change keeps them going.

These men and women are sacrificing their health, and do you mean to tell me that we can't find the humanity and compassion to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, Speaker BOEHNER? Are you kidding me?

This isn't who we are as a nation. Cesar Chavez and Mahatma Gandhi called fasting a fervent prayer, but we must do our part on behalf of the families who have been hurt by this delay of comprehensive immigration reform. I'm standing with these courageous people and immigrant families all across this Nation in demanding a vote on an immigration bill.

Let's stop this shameful delay and bring a bill to this floor for a vote by the end of the year.

THE MEDICARE OPT-OUT BILL

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at a time when Americans continue to see their health care options diminished by the President's disastrous health care law, it's critical that we work to return choice and freedom to the American people. That's why I introduced H.R. 3498, a common-sense bill that gives seniors the freedom to make their own health care decisions and opt out of Medicare.

If folks like Warren Buffett or Ross Perot want to opt out of Medicare part A but they don't want or need a government entitlement paying for their care, we should let them. This bill truly tells seniors "if you like your current coverage, you can keep it" without the risk of losing other benefits like Social Security.

Seniors want, need, and deserve the right to choose a health care plan that fits their needs. I urge my colleagues to join my efforts in returning freedom and choice to American seniors.

THE EFFECT OF BUDGET CUTS ON EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot about choices and constituents and what we should do. Well, let me say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this Nation, our Nation is at a crossroads. The decisions we make today will affect the long-term economic stability of our Nation.

Congress must pass a budget that helps grow our Nation and creates jobs. We must eliminate the sequester and invest in our future by funding Federal research and education programs. For example, in my district, Ohio State University, one of the Nation's premier research institutions, has recently experienced a 7.2 percent decrease in Federal funding because of the sequester and other budget cuts to Federal research and development.

If this downward trend continues, no question—no question—it will affect our Nation's next generation of science, discovery, and innovation while slowing jobs growth. Federal investment in research and education are put to use in places like world-class laboratories, clinical trials, and energy innovation centers. We must sustain these investments. Our Nation's economic security depends on it.

BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS FOR PROSPERITY

(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, the American people are still most concerned about job opportunities and economic growth. They're concerned with their checkbooks and family budgets as the winter months and holiday seasons arrive.

All too often, Washington, D.C., makes it harder on the economy and the American people, not easier. Layer upon layer of government mandates, regulations, and taxes suffocate our struggling economy and come down hard upon the hardworking American people.

The House must remain committed to focusing on job creation, economic prosperity, and opportunities for all Americans to succeed. This week, the House will continue our efforts to put more Americans back to work by focusing on pro-jobs legislation that make it easier for our small businesses to access resources they need to expand and add employees.

We will work to pass legislation that builds on hydropower in our country, creating good-paying jobs through continuing to develop our all-of-the-above national energy policy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Congress to work together for the

betterment of our entire Nation. We must come together and support these bipartisan solutions that encourage economic growth, better paying jobs, and lead to more economic prosperity for all.

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1973 HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 1973 basketball team from Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware. This year marks 40 years since Howard's sensational '73 team won Delaware's boys State championship with an undefeated season of 24-0.

Howard's '73 team wasn't the biggest; but the Wildcats were disciplined, and they played with a lot of heart. They were led by their brilliant guards David Roane and Kenny Hynson and the irrepressible Mike Miller, who battled much taller players under the boards.

Supported by a big family of coaches, teachers, classmates, and Howard alumni, the Wildcats became the first team in Delaware history to finish the season undefeated.

There were several games where it looked like Howard might get knocked off, including a nail-biter against the much bigger Salesianum in the State semifinal; but the Wildcats were always able to pull out the victory in the end.

Today I want to recognize Howard High School's 1973 boys basketball team, honor them for their historic season, and thank them for the work they continue to do for youth in the State of Delaware.

HOMEOWNERS FLOOD INSURANCE RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, homeowners in my home State of Florida and across the country face significant flood insurance rate increases as a result of the reforms made to address the solvency of the National Flood Insurance Program.

To ensure that NFIP remains both affordable for homeowners and sustainable for taxpayers, I have introduced H.R. 3312, the Homeowners Flood Insurance Relief Act. The bill would cap a homeowner's premiums at the end of a 10-year phase-in to no more than the appraised value of the structure over the course of a 30-year mortgage. It would also allow homeowners to pay premiums on a more affordable monthly basis rather than an annual lump sum.

These commonsense changes will ensure that homeowners stay in the pro-

gram and any increased premiums do not harm the already fragile housing market's recovery. Furthermore, they continue the intent of the NFIP, protecting homeowners from devastating floods while also ensuring the program is able to cover its costs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation forward.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to highlight the 100th legislative day that my colleagues and I have come to the House floor and called for action on climate change.

Since we started this effort, California has been rocked by devastating wildfires, the Midwest has been damaged by tornadoes, an early-season blizzard has wiped out livestock in the Dakotas, and deadly floods have destroyed parts of Colorado.

Extreme weather events caused by climate change continue to affect families and businesses across this country. These are not random occurrences, but constant reminders that climate change is real. We will continue to make our voices heard on the House floor until everyone comes to the table, effective action is taken, and future generations are protected.

OBAMACARE IS NOT WORKING

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

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the conversation this morning and the 1 minutes that are given, I don't hear many of my friends across the aisle talking about ObamaCare.

When I am back at home, I am hearing from thousands of people who have lost their insurance—people who did the right thing: Americans who bought insurance to cover themselves and their families who have now lost their insurance; Americans who we asked to do the right thing, and they did it.

In Wisconsin, 95 percent of Wisconsinites were covered. Instead of working on the 5 percent that weren't covered, we have now abandoned our health care system, and it is broken for those Americans who tried to do the right thing.

In my district, Denise needs a kidney transplant. She has lost her insurance. She has lost her doctor. She is going to the exchange looking for insurance, and the one option that she has doesn't provide coverage for her current doctor. This is life and death for so many Americans.

I hope that my friends across the aisle will start to talk about ObamaCare and how we fix it to make

it work for the American people, because right now it is not working.

A NEW DAY FOR HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the prior speaker's prayers are about to be answered.

Mr. Speaker, my State of Kentucky is a national model for how the Affordable Care Act can make our constituents' lives more secure and their businesses stronger. I would like to share one story. Will Russell is the owner of Why Louisville, a small independent business in my district that specializes in locally designed clothing and art. The father of a 1-year-old, he also has a preexisting condition that led insurance companies to deny him coverage for the past 15 years.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, beginning January 1, Will and his wife and son will be covered under a plan they found on Kynect, Kentucky's health insurance exchange. Will estimates his family will save \$300 a month. Add that to the peace of mind that comes with knowing he will never face medical bankruptcy and the threat of losing his thriving business just because he didn't have access to insurance.

He has been so pleased with the ease and affordability of Kynect that he is now exploring coverage for his employees for the first time through the State's small business exchange. Mr. Speaker, Will's story is one among millions of Americans who are finding expanded care through the Affordable Care Act. To quote Will:

It's going to be a new day for my family, for me, and so many people just like us in Kentucky and throughout the country.

SHARE YOUR OBAMACARE STORY

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the millions of Americans who have lost their health insurance under ObamaCare.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Federal Government's chief watchdog, is holding a field hearing this Friday in Apache Junction, Arizona, entitled, "ObamaCare Implementation, the Broken Promise: If You Like Your Current Plan, You Can Keep It." As a member of this committee, I am joining Chairman DARRELL ISSA to listen to Arizonans tell their ObamaCare nightmares.

I want to know how this terrible law is hurting you personally so we can show President Obama and the Senate Democrats the damage ObamaCare is inflicting throughout Arizona and across the country. I encourage you all to come and let your voices be heard.