

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment, Modification and Cancellation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Northeast United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0504)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3628. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Washington, DC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0339)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3629. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Creation of Low Power Radio Service, Amendment of Service and Eligibility Rules for FM Broadcast Translator Stations" (FCC 13-134) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3630. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promoting Interoperability in the 700 MHz Commercial Spectrum; Requests for Waiver and Extension of Lower 700 MHz Band Interim Construction Benchmark Deadlines" (FCC 13-136) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1398. A bill to require the Federal Government to expedite the sale of underutilized Federal real property (Rept. No. 113-122).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1722. A bill to improve the training of child protection professionals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1723. A bill to clarify that the anti-kick-back laws apply to qualified health plans, the federally-facilitated marketplaces, and other plans and programs under title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1724. A bill to provide that the reinsurance fee for the transitional reinsurance program under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act be applied equally to all health insurance issuers and group health

plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1725. A bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1726. A bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1727. A bill to require a Comptroller General of the United States report assessing a study of the Army on the combat vehicle industrial base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 1729. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide further options with respect to levels of coverage under qualified health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 1730. A bill to reform the regulatory process to ensure that small businesses are free to compete and to create jobs, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1731. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1732. A bill to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1733. A bill to stop exploitation through trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 1734. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide for a Seniors' Financial Bill of Rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COBURN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1735. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from the definition of health insurance coverage certain

medical stop-loss insurance obtained by certain plan sponsors of group health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1736. A bill to amend titles 5 and 38, United States Code, to clarify the veteran status of an individual based on the attendance of the individual at a preparatory school of a service academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 1737. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; read the first time.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1738. A bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 299. A resolution congratulating the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on the celebration of its 100th anniversary and commending its significant contribution to empower and revitalize developing communities around the world; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 300. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 301. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and implementation of the National Alzheimer's Project Act and the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 160

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to exclude from consumer credit reports medical debt that has been in collection and has been fully paid or settled, and for other purposes.

S. 288

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to increase the participation of historically underrepresented demographic groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and industry.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 381, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders", for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

S. 395

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 395, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 405

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 405, a bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings.

S. 583

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 669

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 669, a bill to make permanent the Internal Revenue Service Free File program.

S. 699

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 699, a bill to reallocate Federal judgeships for the courts of appeals, and for other purposes.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 1307

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1424

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for a delay in the implementation schedule of the reductions in disproportionate share hospital payments, and for other purposes.

S. 1610

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1610, a bill to delay the implementation

of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1642

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1642, a bill to permit the continuation of certain health plans.

S. 1654

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations.

S. 1702

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1702, a bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 294

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 294, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

AMENDMENT NO. 2038

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2038 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2041

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2041 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2046

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2046 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2056

At the request of Mr. MORAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2056 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2057

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2057 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2063

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2063 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2081

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2081 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2087

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2087 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2099

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2099 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2100

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2100 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2109

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2109 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2116

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2116 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2117

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2117 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to

authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2118

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2118 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name and the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2118 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 2119

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2119 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2121

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2121 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2132

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2132 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2145

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2145 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military

activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1724. A bill to provide that the reinsurance fee for the transitional reinsurance program under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act be applied equally to all health insurance issuers and group health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss again how ObamaCare is negatively impacting American families.

NBC News is reporting that 5 million Americans have received cancellation notices from health insurers. In my home State of South Dakota, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader is reporting that nearly 3,000 people have lost the plan they had. Yet this administration is merely pursuing political band-aids for the problem created by the President's health care law. The President is trying to fix this problem of canceled plans, but his solution is a politically motivated bandaid in response to pressure from Members of his own party who are nervous about the next election. The unfortunate reality of his bandaid is that it won't work.

Instead of taking responsibility for his failed policies and broken promises, he is changing his mind about how he wants his law to work at the eleventh hour. He is kicking the can to State insurance regulators to determine whether, in 48 days—which is from the date of his announcement on Thursday—they can reverse a train wreck that has been barreling down the tracks for nearly 4 years.

The President's health care law told the entire country that compliance with the President's law must occur on January 1, 2014. In response, industry and State regulators complied. Now, after relentlessly pushing a law that is fundamentally flawed, the President is changing his mind. He is expecting the State insurance commissioners to bail him out, to allow Americans to keep the plans they were promised they could keep.

Since passage of his health care law, the President has continued to tout his law and has continued to make promises to the American people that he knowingly cannot keep. While I agree that Americans should be able to keep the plans they have and like, this eleventh-hour attempt at a fix is an indication that the underpinnings of this law are irreversibly flawed.

The administration is now trying to live up to a promise it made despite the fact that they knew the promise wasn't true. In fact, the President repeated and reiterated that promise as recently as September 26 despite the fact that the administration knew it wasn't true. In 2010 the administration knew that up to 93 million Americans in the private market were in danger of losing their current health care plan. But the deeper problem with the President's fix is that it is merely a bandaid. By this time next year Americans will be in this exact same situation all over again.

The President is not focused on finding a good permanent solution but a good political solution. Putting this bandaid on the problem now may get him and his party past next year's elections. He seems more interested in preserving that power than creating real solutions to the underlying issues. In fact, the President is so concerned about the politics of his actions that he is considering yet again a way to bail out his union friends. As part of the health care law, unions agree to pay a tax to help pay for the cost of expanding coverage. This tax, known as the reinsurance tax, is scheduled to be paid by self-insured plans, including plans administered by unions and many of the largest businesses in America. But the unions are unhappy that they have to pay money into a fund to help fund a benefit for someone other than their dues-paying members. They took their complaints to the administration, and, buried in a regulation issued last month, the administration announced they intend to exempt unions from paying this tax.

Yesterday the Wall Street Journal editorial page articulated exactly why the unions should not be exempt from this tax. The editorial, called "ObamaCare's Union Favor," argues that "the unions ought to consider this tax a civic obligation in solidarity with the (uninsured) working folk they claim to support." It further states that "there's no conceivable rationale—other than politics—for releasing union-only plans from a tax." As the editorial pointed out, exempting unions from this tax will only mean increased taxes on nonunionized Americans in self-insured plans since the tax is structured in a way that it must raise a total of \$25 billion and isn't structured as a straight percentage like most taxes.

Granting this political deal to unions is why I am introducing the Union Tax Fairness Act. This bill would ensure that unions live up to the commitments they made when they put their political weight behind the health care law. It is political deals such as this that highlight how this law is failing the average American.

This reinsurance fee exemption isn't the only backroom deal the administration is trying to grant unions. Earlier this fall the administration tried to find a way to provide ObamaCare

subsidies to ineligible union employees. I introduced a bill called the Union Bailout Prevention Act which was aimed at ensuring the administration could not make that special deal either.

It is clear that this President—President Obama—is trying to fix problems in his health care law by making decisions and exemptions based on favors to his political allies.

Democrats are on the run from the law they once championed. They recognize this law is sagging under its own weight. Last week there were 39 House Democrats who voted against the Obama administration by supporting the Upton bill that provides a better solution to allowing Americans to keep plans they like than what the President proposed. Even former President Bill Clinton said President Obama should keep his word when it comes to allowing Americans to keep the plans they have and like. In this Chamber, several Senate Democrats are running for the exits and looking for a legislative escape hatch of their own.

Unfortunately, the solutions proposed by this administration to fix problems in the health care law are only temporary solutions. Their solutions to problems are either temporary delays—as they did with the employer mandate and the 1-year extension of 2013 plans—or political favors to their friends and allies. Instead, this administration should agree to delay this entire law for all Americans.

Americans are deeply skeptical of the Affordable Care Act. According to last week's Gallup poll, 55 percent of Americans now disapprove of the health care law. There is a more recent poll this morning in which ABC News and the Washington Post have that number at 57 percent disapproving.

The time to act is now to ensure Americans can keep the plans they have and like. This "fix" won't prevent Americans from losing their coverage, facing sticker shock and premium increases, or losing their doctors. This law is fundamentally broken, and we need to start over and enact real reforms that decrease costs and improve access to care.

As do so many of us in this Chamber, I hear on a daily basis from my constituents in South Dakota about the very real impact this is having on middle-income Americans. This is an email I received last week:

My wife just received our health care insurance policy renewals for 2014 and we are in shock!

Our monthly premiums increased from \$400 per month to \$1,000, or over \$7,000 more per year. My wife age 59 and me age 60 now receive maternity benefits and some other very limited coverage. We lost our prescription drug co-pay and doctor visits co-pay. These expenses will now be included in our \$6,300 deductible. I will have no option for any subsidy to offset these increases in premiums.

He goes on to say:

Please, please push for a reversal of this horrible health care plan.