

unemployment benefits will cost my State, Washington State, nearly 6,200 jobs. That is worth repeating. Doing nothing will cost us jobs. For the sake of middle class families who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, for the sake of the economic recovery, we need to extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program immediately.

OBAMACARE—HOW IT AFFECTS A SINGLE MOM IN TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week I got a call from a concerned father in Crosby, Texas. His daughter is a single working mom with 3 young children ages 3 through 13. She recently received bad news from her health insurance provider. She and her children will be dropped from their current plan.

The new plan required under ObamaCare had a 40 percent more expensive premium. As a result, she and her children had to move out of their home and in with their father and mother. She no longer can afford to make it on her own.

The father said: "Texans are suffering. It hurts us. She got a 40 percent increase in her premium payments while she's already struggling to make ends meet. Her policy was great before, but now it's gone."

Mr. Speaker, this single working mom in Texas is being punished under ObamaCare. The President sold ObamaCare to the American people on the false promise that if they liked their plan they could keep it. Now, this single mother and her children and others are learning the hard way that this was just one more Washington lie.

And that's just the way it is.

BENEFIT CUTS TO MILITARY RETIREES

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, during my first year in office, I have made it a priority to put politics aside and focus on working with both Democrats and Republicans. My goal is to find commonsense solutions that benefit the people of my region of Illinois.

I was encouraged to see both parties come together last month to pass a bipartisan deal that prevented another government shutdown, eased the harmful impact of sequestration, and protected Illinois jobs and the economy.

Compromises are rarely perfect. This budget is no different. It is not perfect. That is why I helped to introduce the Military Retirement Restoration Act. It would repeal the military retiree cost-of-living adjustments included in the budget deal. This bill is fully paid for and would repeal those costs to

military retirees by closing unfair tax loopholes for offshore corporations.

As someone who will always honor and support those who have given their lives in service to our country, I will continue to oppose proposals that aim to balance our budget on the backs of the brave men and women who have served us.

I urge Democrats and Republicans to join me in supporting this commonsense effort to ensure our military retirees get the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

EXCHANGE AND COMMISSARY PROGRAM

(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 express my support for the military exchange and commissary program.

The Defense Commissary Agency in the Department of Defense operates an efficient, worldwide chain of commissaries providing affordable groceries to military personnel and their families, and retirees. This benefit is critical for the men and women of the military and their families. It helps military personnel adequately provide for their families' nutrition and well-being, both here at home and across the globe.

While our Federal budget is under pressure, the benefits to our military personnel must not be targeted as a means to reduce our national debt. The exchange and commissary program is essential for retention, well-being, and our Nation's military readiness. This is a vital service, and I will continue to fight for these services to be preserved here, and especially across the globe. This program is critical to our Nation's military readiness and must be maintained.

CARE ACT

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have a solemn duty to protect the privacy of all Americans. I think all of us here believe that, too.

I am committed to helping southern Arizonans have access to the Affordable Care Act through the healthcare.gov Web site, and we must ensure that their personal and medical information is protected.

That is why I will be introducing the CARE Act, which will require that the Department of Homeland Security develop the highest cybersecurity standards for healthcare.gov, and for Department of Health and Human Services to implement these standards within 90 days.

In a recent hearing in the Committee on Homeland Security, we learned that too little has been done to protect the

privacy of Americans accessing the Web site. My constituents and the people across this country deserve to know that when they interact with this Web site, their personal information will be safe and secure. That is what my bill ensures.

I urge my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans alike, to join me in support of this critical legislation.

AAPS ENDORSEMENT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, nearly 4 years ago, the President signed into law his massive takeover of our health care system, and now Americans are seeing the lies and deceptions of ObamaCare. They deserve better. Now, more than ever, they are looking for a solution. Fortunately, there is a solution. It is H.R. 2900, my Patient OPTION Act.

The Patient OPTION Act is the only health care bill that completely removes the government from the doctor-patient relationship and puts patients back in charge of their health care decisions. It will make health insurance cheaper for everyone. It provides access to good, quality care for all Americans, and it will save Medicare from going broke.

This week, I am honored to announce that the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has endorsed my Patient OPTION act. With the support of associations like AAPS and through the voice of "we the people," we can work to put in place true conservative solutions like my Patient OPTION Act.

REPEAL MILITARY COST-OF-LIVING CUT

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, although the recent budget compromise has given our economy a measure of stability—and we are all thankful for that—it did so at the cost of vital benefits for our military and their families.

The budget deal cut \$6 billion by reducing the crucial cost-of-living adjustment, or COLAs, for thousands of veterans in south Florida and across the country. This is a miniscule part of the Federal deficit—less than 0.1 percent—but it makes a huge difference for those who have given so much.

Cost-of-living adjustments help seniors and veterans keep up with the rising costs and basic needs like groceries and clothing. There are a lot of places to cut the Federal deficits, but it shouldn't be in aiding those men and women who have sacrificed so much.

That is why I have cosponsored legislation to repeal this cut, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of our Nation's heroes.

POVERTY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 50 years since President Johnson declared war on poverty. I don't doubt that President Johnson had good intentions, but intentions don't win wars, and poverty is a stubborn opponent. Fifteen percent of Americans still live below the poverty line, after trillions spent by the government.

In December, I brought together community leaders and national experts to discuss how we can reinvigorate the city of Reading and other cities in the 16th District of Pennsylvania. From this conference, we are moving forward to get institutions to work together strategically and think differently about attacking the problem.

Government at every level and communities leaders need to cooperate and make sure there are opportunities to start new businesses and attract more development.

Perhaps most importantly, we need smart strategies to help kids get a good education. This has to include building strong families, since statistics show that children raised by only one parent are far more susceptible to temptations of drugs and gangs and other problems.

It is time we rethought our strategy and rededicate ourselves to try helping needy Americans by removing barriers for wealth creation.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
EXTENSION

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to extend the critical unemployment insurance lifeline to the 1.3 million Americans who have already lost coverage.

Tragically, another 1.9 million Americans are set to lose benefits over the first 6 months of this year if we do not act. In California alone, over 214,000 people have already lost their unemployment coverage, including 19,000 people in San Diego County and 3,500 people in Imperial County.

Approximately 326,000 more Californians stand to lose their coverage in the first 6 months of 2014. With unemployment unacceptably high, now is not the time to take money out of the pockets of those who are struggling.

For jobless Americans, unemployment benefits are used to purchase basic lifeline needs like food and shelter and immediate necessities. The time is clicking. Let's do the right thing.

HEALTH EXCHANGE SECURITY
AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3811.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 455, I call up the bill (H.R. 3811) to require notification of individuals of breaches of personally identifiable information through Exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3811

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS OF BREACHES OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION THROUGH PPACA EXCHANGES.

Not later than two business days after the discovery of a breach of security of any system maintained by an Exchange established under section 1311 or 1321 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031, 18041) which is known to have resulted in personally identifiable information of an individual being stolen or unlawfully accessed, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide notice of such breach to each such individual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in the days leading up to Christmas, hackers stole millions of credit card numbers from the servers of retail giant Target. I imagine that at least a few here in this Chamber may have had their own credit cards replaced to prevent theft.

What if Target had not bothered to tell anyone?

What if they had waited until people noticed fraudulent charges popping up on their statements? The damage would certainly be worse.

It may shock some people to learn that there is no legal requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services notify an individual if his or her personal information is breached or improperly accessed through the Affordable Care Act's exchanges.

While HHS has said that it will notify individuals in such a case, the American people have a right to know that their government is required by law to contact them if their personal information is compromised.

H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act, would simply ensure Americans receive notification from HHS when their personally identifiable information has been compromised through the exchanges. Specifically, the bill requires HHS to notify individuals no later than two business days after discovery of a breach of an exchange system.

Since the disastrous rollout of the healthcare.gov Web site, congressional oversight has uncovered that end-to-end security testing of healthcare.gov did not occur before the October 1 launch, and that high-ranking administration officials were told of the security risks before the Web site went live.

Teresa Fryer, the chief information security officer for the agency running the exchange system, even stated in a draft memo that the Federal exchange "does not reasonably meet security requirements" and "there is also no confidence that personal identifiable information will be protected."

A recent article in Information Week discussed a report released by Experian entitled "2014 Data Breach Industry Forecast," which stated that "the health care industry, by far, will be the most susceptible to publicly disclosed and widely scrutinized data breaches in 2014."

According to Information Week, the author of the study said he is basing this prediction at least partly on reports of security risks posted by the healthcare.gov Web site and the health insurance exchanges established by various States. The Web infrastructure to support health insurance reform was "put together too quickly and haphazardly."

The most glaring problem for these sites has been their inability to keep up with consumer demand. The organizational infrastructure behind the implementation of ObamaCare is also complex, meaning that many parties have access to the personal data and could misuse or mishandle it.

So we have volume issues, security issues, multiple data handling points, all generally not good things for protecting protected health information and personal identity information.

Given the lack of security testing and the risk associated with healthcare.gov, and the administration's repeated misrepresentation of the Web site's readiness and functionality, H.R. 3811 is a reasonable step to ensure Federal officials are required to notify individuals in case of a breach.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that Republicans are using