

that receive health insurance coverage from their small employer generally contribute a portion of the premium. For this analysis, if the employer premium increases, it is assumed that the employee contribution will rise as well. Similarly, if the employer premium is reduced, the employee contribution is assumed to decrease. This results in roughly 11 million individuals whose premiums are estimated to be higher as a result of the ACA and about 6 million individuals who are estimated to have lower premiums.

There is a rather large degree of uncertainty associated with this estimate. The impact could vary significantly depending on the mix of firms that decide to offer health insurance coverage. In reality, the employer's decisions to offer coverage will be based on far more factors than the three that are focused on in this report so understanding the effects of just these provisions will always be challenging. Using their Compare model, RAND analyzed the impact of the entire ACA on small group premiums and determined that the effect would be minimal. Further, note that the number of affected individuals will be smaller in 2014 because (i) a number of small group plans were renewed early, and (ii) about half of the states have allowed extensions to their pre-ACA rating rules under the transitional policy announced by CMS on November 14, 2013.

#### SUMMARY

The Affordable Care Act requires all non-grandfathered health insurance coverage in the individual and group markets to be guaranteed issue and guaranteed renewable. In addition, all non-grandfathered insurance plans and policies in the individual and group markets can vary premium rates based only on age, family status, geography, and tobacco use, and the variation in the age and tobacco use factors is limited. This new premium rating requirement will impact the premiums paid by individuals and families working for small employers who offer health insurance. Specifically, we have estimated that the premium rates for roughly 11 million people will increase and about 6 million people are expected to experience a premium rate reduction due to sections 2701 through 2703 of the PHS Act.

#### SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELANANS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Venezuelans who seek to return liberty, the rule of law, and peace to their beleaguered nation. Over a period of years, the corrupt Cuban-backed Maduro-Chavez government has systematically looted and oppressed the people it purports to serve.

I received an email from a friend today who has spent significant time in Venezuela. He writes:

Students, tired of the corruption, the crime, the killings, an economy spiraling out of control, a lack of free press, are peacefully demonstrating, per their constitutional right, against the government. The government, instead of protecting the students and others demonstrating, is attacking, arresting, and often killing them.

Mr. Speaker, the death toll is growing; the list of political prisoners is growing. The repressive tactics of the Venezuelan Government cannot be ignored. I call on the administration to act and support Venezuelans who seek simply to secure the blessings of lib-

erty for themselves and their countrymen.

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#### THE CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

(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, as they have for weeks, thousands of Venezuelans continue to risk their lives, taking to the streets in protest of their failed government. The people of Venezuela have seen their economy collapse, family members kidnapped, friends murdered.

While they plead for a better future for their country, the government brutally attacks its own citizens and clamps down on basic freedoms. This is not a democracy, and no conscientious nation should remain silent.

It is our responsibility to make sure the world knows full well what is happening in Venezuela, and that the Venezuelan government is accountable for these blatant violations of universal democratic principles.

As the protesters' latest motto goes, "El que se cansa pierde"—he who tires, loses. The fight for freedom, justice, and human rights will never, never die.

#### THE CASE OF LEOPOLDO LOPEZ

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is right and fitting for the United States House of Representatives to pay attention to the case of Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who has been unjustly imprisoned by the puppet regime of Nicolas Maduro.

Leopoldo is a grassroots leader and founder of the political party Voluntad Popular. He has been wrongfully accused of criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and intent to damage property.

Leopoldo is being held in a military prison, and his proceedings have been kept secret from the public. We cannot stand idly by while democracy and due process are trampled on in our own hemisphere, Mr. Speaker. Being silent is not an option.

Venezuelan students have been peacefully demonstrating against this regime that has no qualms repressing the protest with live ammunition and shock groups whose tactics are extremely violent.

Those of us who advocate for freedom have a moral responsibility to support the students in Caracas, Merida, San Cristobal, Valencia, and throughout Venezuela who, through peaceful means, seek the way to create a more perfect union with democracy and freedom as their guide.

#### THE OLYMPIC STRUGGLE IN UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this weekend the world watched the close of the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia. Our Nation distinguished itself.

Right next door, in the nation of Ukraine, another Olympic struggle was going on as tens of thousands of young people, the future of that country of Ukraine, rose in peaceful assembly and achieved their goal of removing corrupt leadership and of offering the hope that life in Ukraine could be better for all.

May I encourage the leaders of Ukraine's Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, to rise to this occasion, to embrace all of that great country, to keep the peace, to move toward democratic reform, so that the full potential of that remarkable place on this Earth can be reached for the first time in modern history.

May Ukraine extend west and south and east and north. Her power is yet to be fully realized, and we congratulate those who are moving toward peaceful progress in that nation.

May God go with you.

#### RECOGNIZING RARE DISEASE DAY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, on February 28, we recognize Rare Disease Day, which gives us a chance to raise awareness of the rare diseases affecting our communities.

In the United States, there are 7,000 rare diseases affecting nearly 30 million Americans. One disease I would like to raise awareness about today is pulmonary fibrosis, which affects individuals' lungs and their ability to breathe.

Pulmonary fibrosis kills 40,000 Americans each and every year, the same number of annual deaths as from breast cancer. There is still no known cure, no known cause, and no FDA-approved treatment.

Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, Senator COONS and I led a bipartisan letter, with 41 other Members of Congress, asking the National Institutes of Health to review their funding levels for rare diseases like pulmonary fibrosis. This letter shows that Members on both sides of the aisle want to see more progress in fighting back against these rare diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and constituents to remember our fellow Americans suffering from rare diseases, including pulmonary fibrosis.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF WILLIAM T. MAGEE

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, another member of America's Greatest Generation will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. William T. Magee—"Tom," as he is known—was an American and Cincinnati we can all be proud of.

Tom was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, and two Presidential Unit Citations during his service in World War II.

Serving aboard a B-24 Liberator, Tom's plane was shot down over enemy territory, and he survived 10 days in enemy territory before returning to the fight.

Later, with a different crew, Tom safely landed a bomber after the pilot and copilot were killed by enemy fire.

Tom came home to Cincinnati, where he lived the rest of his life, devoted to his family, work, and community. Tom's legacy of serving his Nation inspired three children and two grandchildren to serve our nation in conflicts ranging from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thank you, Lieutenant Magee. A grateful nation salutes you. Rest in peace. Rest in peace.

#### THE FAIR ACT

(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 fairness, to talk about individuals, many from my district, who are being treated unfairly because of the President's health care law.

Marjorie, from Carmel, recently wrote to tell me that coverage on the exchanges for her family will cost at least \$1,500 a month. Her husband recently lost his job in the health care industry, and she has two kids in college. Her only option may be to go without health care and pay the penalty to the IRS. For Marjorie, ObamaCare is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, too many Hoosiers, too many Americans have similar stories. The President has delayed the employer mandate for businesses twice, but he has offered no such relief for individuals who are struggling.

That is why Republican Study Committee Chairman STEVE SCALISE and I have introduced the FAIR Act. This simple bill ensures that whenever the ObamaCare employer mandate is delayed, the individual mandate will be delayed as well.

House Republicans understand that fairness means not treating people differently. It means government cannot pick and choose which laws apply to which Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass this common-sense piece of legislation. It is the fair thing to do.

#### NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise as cochairman of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus to recognize National Career and Technical Education Month, celebrated each February.

National CTE Month recognizes the contributions that career and technical education programs make to the American economy, along with the important work being done by CTE professionals and teachers.

In today's competitive job market, high-paying, high-demand jobs require technical skills and training. CTE programs have been historically underutilized, yet, in an era of record high unemployment, these programs are the key to bridging the skills gap.

CTE Month is also a time for policymakers to ask, are we doing enough to ensure individuals have the skills that will lead to a family-sustaining job?

Now, I know my fellow colleagues in the Career and Technical Education Caucus share these concerns. I was pleased to learn that Senators ROB PORTMAN of Ohio and TIM KAINE of Virginia have followed suit and organized the Senate CTE Caucus, and I look forward to working with them and my House cochairman, Mr. LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, as we continue to promote America's competitiveness through CTE programs.

#### MAKING IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be back on the floor once again. I won't take a whole hour here, but I wanted just to talk about something that is so very important to America and, really, to the future of this country.

I like to start these discussions with what are we all about? What should we really be thinking about?

I find myself often going back to Franklin Delano Roosevelt during a very difficult time in America's history, the Great Depression. He put forth a principle, if you would, a values statement of what he was about and really what this country could and should be about.

He said the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

It is a values statement. It is a statement of what I like to believe I am here for, to deal with this profound,

important issue in this, another period of stress for the American family.

We often find ourselves here on the floor, and I do this almost all the time, talking about this subject, the subject of Making It in America. This is a manufacturing strategy for America, and in this strategy there are many elements that we spend time on the floor talking about and legislation that we push here dealing with how to revive the manufacturing sector, and in doing so, give the American family, the American middle class, an opportunity that it once had: to find a good-paying job, to be able to make it in America with their family, to provide for a home, for food, for clothing, for education, vacations, sort of the American Dream, to be able to do those things. They knew that if they would work hard they would be able to make it.

Well, one way of achieving that is with this strategy of rebuilding the American manufacturing sector to make it in America, whether that is manufacturing food, as occurs in my district—it is a big agricultural district—or some of the new technologies of biotechnologies of one sort or another.

The high-tech industry, the automotive industry is coming back, and indeed, for a variety of reasons, some of it had to do with on our legislative agenda. We are seeing the revival of the American manufacturing sector. Good, wonderful. That is where the middle class jobs will largely come from.

There are various pieces of this. There is the trade policy, and there is much debate here on the floor now and in the months ahead about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a new trade deal. Is it going to be fair trade or free trade?

We don't need free trade. What we need is fair trade.

The tax policies—certainly we see this in the kind of tax breaks that are out there. Does the oil industry need additional tax breaks?

Their incomes, which are the largest profits in the world, do they need to be supplemented with American taxpayer money?

Right now they are, the Big Five: \$6 billion a year of American taxpayer money going to them.

We talk about tax policy, talk energy policy, but I want to really focus this evening on these two issues, labor and education.

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We will leave aside the research issues—which are fundamental to future economic growth because you have to be out ahead, and that is where research comes in—and the infrastructure, which I will weave into this.

But I really want to focus on labor and education. And I want to focus on a very important part of this equation, this very important part about the middle class and those who want to be in the middle class.