

major terrorist attack. Why are we providing confusion, uncertainty, and partisanship to helping this country recover in the unthinkable event of another successful large-scale terrorist attack?

I hope that the voice of the American people prevails and a bipartisan TRIA bill can be brought swiftly to the floor.

STATE MEDICAID EXPANSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as cochair of the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, I rise this morning to talk about how important expanding Medicaid is for my State and for the country.

First, I want to thank my good friend from North Carolina, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, for agreeing to co-chair this caucus. He is the driving force behind Medicaid expansion, that portion of the Affordable Care Act. There are few people in Congress who understand this issue as well as G.K. does, and it means a lot that he would agree to work on this issue with me.

I am also proud that 33 Members of Congress have joined the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus. We want to have an ongoing conversation about why it is so critical that every State expand Medicaid. Medicaid expansion is a choice that States can make because of the Supreme Court's ruling. However, when the Court struck down the requirement and gave States the choice to expand Medicaid, it did not strike the facts that make Medicaid expansion the correct budgetary, economic, health, and, yes, moral choice. Twenty-seven States, a majority of the States of this great country, looked at the facts and made the choice to help their people become healthier and therefore better able to lead productive lives. Expanding Medicaid in those States provided health coverage to approximately 10.5 million people who otherwise wouldn't have had it, according to Families USA.

Despite the political winds that swirl around the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion should be a bipartisan issue. The Republican Governor of Arizona, for instance, pushed her State legislature to expand Medicaid because Governor Brewer and her allies knew that expansion would allow the program to help 300,000 low-income Arizonans who otherwise would not have had health coverage.

In Ohio, that State's Republican Governor expanded Medicaid, grounding the move in his faith and his belief that Ohioans should benefit from their Federal tax dollars. Because of the Governor's action, Ohio will see \$13 billion from the Federal Government over the next 7 years to cover those newly eligible Medicaid recipients, and approximately 366,000 Ohio residents are thus eligible for coverage beginning this year. According to some esti-

mates, as many as 789,000 people will ultimately benefit from the Governor's decision.

In California, almost 3 million people have benefited by getting access to health care when that State expanded Medicaid. These are just a few of the success stories.

The Federal Government will cover 100 percent of the cost of expanding Medicaid during the first 3 years, and 90 percent of the cost for the duration of the program in every State. Like in Ohio, this investment will bring billions of Federal tax dollars back into the State, which will help States develop their health care infrastructures and, thus, improve those States' economies. It will also help low-income Americans access our health care system. We must remember that the people who will benefit from expanding Medicaid are no less deserving of health care than anyone else.

According to a recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services report, States that have expanded Medicaid have seen 17 percent more people enrolled in the Medicaid and CHIP programs. Those are children across the country who now have the option for a healthier life. Unfortunately, millions of low-income Americans are being denied health care by their State legislators and Governors. They are being punished for being poor and for living where they do.

The New York Times recently ran a story entitled, "In Texarkana, Uninsured and on the Wrong Side of a State Line." It describes the harsh realities for those who live on the wrong side of the State line. The author wrote:

Texarkana is perhaps the starkest example of how President Obama's health care law is altering the economic geography of the country. The poor living in the Arkansas half of the town won access to a government benefit worth thousands of dollars annually, yet nothing changed for those on the Texas side of the State line.

In my home State of Georgia, expanding Medicaid would mean access to health care for 684,000 people, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. My Governor reacted to this news by signing a bill eliminating his authority to expand Medicaid. I can't think of anything better than the State of Georgia going ahead and insuring our people with Medicaid.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, let me begin by commending my fellow Congressmen, HANK JOHNSON and Congressman BUTTERFIELD, for their initiative and their advocacy in fighting for and speaking up for Medicaid expansion in each of our States that have not taken it.

More than 5 million people in this country now have health coverage

using Federal dollars available to every State to expand Medicaid eligibility to hardworking Americans and their families, but not in my home State of Pennsylvania. Instead, hundreds of thousands of people in Pennsylvania are left out. Madam Speaker, 305,000 people in Pennsylvania could have health coverage today but for the decision of our Governor. This is morally unconscionable and economically shortsighted.

Months have gone by, people are sicker, hospital bills go unpaid, and health providers struggle to stay at the forefront of innovation. Health care, whether it is to detect an illness or to treat a chronic condition or to save a life, is not optional. Consider the working mother who earns just enough to cover her basic expenses but not enough to get that mammogram so her breast cancer is detected early, and once it is, it is well advanced and life threatening.

Or the 9-year-old girl whose parents work full time at minimum wage and neither can afford to lose a day's pay to visit a pediatrician, so her need for glasses, something simple and correctable, or the early detection of diabetes, something more serious, is delayed or missed, with serious consequences not only for her health but her success in school.

Or the 52-year-old man who knows he should get that test that his doctor recommended, but simply does not have the \$2,000 it costs. So he puts it off, thinking he will get it one of these days, and never gets that simple prescription, that medication that can well save his life. These are hardworking men, women, and children across this country and in Pennsylvania who could have health coverage today but do not.

With \$8.2 billion available to Pennsylvanians, these are Federal dollars, dollars that Pennsylvanians have paid that are not coming back to Pennsylvania but would be available to us, are available to us. Over the next 3 years, we should use these funds to get health care to our people, to hire tens of thousands of health care workers to contain costs, to improve the health status of the people of our State, and yes to save lives.

There is no more time to waste. Pennsylvania should seize this opportunity. So should the other States that have Federal dollars available to them to do the same thing for the people of their State. We should use these Federal resources to expand lifesaving health coverage, to help our kids succeed, and to help us be healthy, to create jobs, and to ensure our economic growth. Let's do the right thing in Pennsylvania and across this country. These States should take Medicaid expansion and do right for the economy of our States, for the people of our States, and for the Nation.

□ 1115

STATE MEDICAID EXPANSION
CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce to my colleagues the formation of a new House caucus to be known as the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus. I am delighted to cochair this caucus, along with my good friend, Congressman HANK JOHNSON, from the State of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, this caucus is 33 members strong. We want to demonstrate to recalcitrant Governors and State legislatures across the country the overwhelming public support to provide health care to low-income single adults, particularly those ages 18 to 65.

The majority of our caucus members are from States that have made the shortsighted and politically-motivated decision to exclude the very people the Medicaid program was established to help in the first place.

To date, 26 States and the District of Columbia have seized the opportunity to expand coverage to millions of Americans. These States made the wise and moral decision to not only ensure that their residents can get the care that they deserve, but they made a smart economic decision to pull billions of dollars in additional Federal funding into their economies.

These funds have the triple benefit of yielding better health outcomes for the low-income and poor, creating health care-related jobs, and driving down the aggregate cost of health care over time.

In contrast, 24 States have not yet expanded Medicaid. They have irresponsibly chosen to turn their backs on more than 5 million Americans that need this coverage. What are those 5 million Americans going to do when they get sick? What are 500,000 North Carolinians going to do when they need medical care?

Madam Speaker, I will tell you what they are going to do. They will either not seek the treatment that they need, causing their condition to get worse, which will lead to missed work and, therefore, unable to pay their bills. Ultimately, they will find themselves in a much worse situation than if they had coverage that they deserve.

The other option is that they will do what many uninsured people have always done out of necessity: go to an emergency room, be treated, and walk out with a bill that they have no ability to pay. Hospitals will then write the cost of treatment off as uncompensated care.

In order to recoup some of the lost money, hospitals will then increase the cost of their procedures, which results in higher premiums for the insured. Medicaid expansion isn't just good for our insurance premiums, but it is also good for the State's bottom line.

In North Carolina alone, expanding Medicaid will save the State more than \$65 million over the next 8 years. Expansion would benefit our economy in North Carolina, adding nearly \$1.5 billion to the State's revenue.

North Carolina drugmakers and medical device manufacturers will need to expand their workforce, adding a total of 23 jobs to the State. That is just in our State. The benefits of expansion nationally are far greater, yet the same scenario is playing out in nearly half of all of the States.

Twenty-four States' decision to not accept billions of dollars in Federal support defies logic and will prove catastrophic for the very people the Medicaid program is intended to help.

A critical point that many people overlook is the fact that, under the act, the Federal Government will pay 100 percent of the cost of expansion through the year 2016 and 90 percent of the costs thereafter.

The public demands action in States that have not expanded, and members of this caucus are tired of inaction. We are disgusted that these States have such careless disregard for poor people. We will continue to press this issue until all 50 States have expanded their Medicaid program.

Again, I thank Congressman HANK JOHNSON, the 31 other members of the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, and the many advocacy organizations for their courage to fight for those who are being blocked from the most basic level of health care.

STATE MEDICAID EXPANSION
CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to be one of the founding members of the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, and I want to thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD and Congressman JOHNSON for their leadership.

In my home State of Florida, there are more than 750,000 people who would benefit from Medicaid expansion. These are people who fall within the coverage gap, people who make too much to receive Medicaid, but too little to receive subsidies. This makes a difference in Florida and in many States who have rejected Medicaid coverage.

Just like in many States across the country, our Governor, Governor Scott, rejected \$51 billion of Federal tax dollars—our tax dollars—money that could have provided insurance to those in need and could have created over 60,000 jobs.

This is money that will strengthen our economy and help Florida grow jobs by supporting hospitals and individuals who need help.

I urge Governor Scott and Florida's leaders in the State legislature to do what is right and take action and accept this funding.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Matthew Schramm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bay City, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Holy and merciful God, maker of Heaven and Earth, we come before You in thanksgiving for Your many blessings.

For the liberty to worship freely and live securely, for the freedom to pursue Your will for our lives, and for the honor of service to the peoples and nations of the Earth, we give You thanks.

We thank You that we live in a land of opportunity, and we pray that You would help us to be mindful of opportunities to help, to share, to protect, to welcome, and to proclaim what is just and what is good.

We ask Your blessing on this House, this government, and all those who serve the common good. By Your Holy Spirit, grant that they might have the courage to do just that; and may all that we do or say give honor and glory to You, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND MATTHEW
SCHRAMM

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.