

likely to be special ed kids or to need special education programs, less likely to be held back a grade. They have better health outcomes, the girls are less likely to get pregnant in adolescence, they are more likely to graduate high school, more likely to go to college and graduate from college and have a good job and pay taxes, and much less likely to go to prison.

I have been a big supporter of investing in early childhood programs for years because it is simply just common sense to do. That is why I support Senator CASEY's amendment. More generally, No Child Left Behind is long overdue for the right kind of reform. With the leadership of Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY, my colleagues and I on the HELP Committee have worked hard to incorporate the lessons we have learned from teachers, students, parents, and school administrators and put them into this legislation.

We have made tremendous progress on this bill, but we still have some work to do before it becomes law. We need to close the achievement gaps in this country. That means we should expect States to focus on all of their students, including low-income and minority students. At its core, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, passed first in 1965, is a civil rights bill that was intended to improve equality and expand opportunity for disadvantaged students.

So I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to strengthen the accountability provisions in this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 so we can keep working to support all of our Nation's students.

Finally, I want to flag something that is very important to me. I have a pending amendment to Every Child Achieves that I care an enormous amount about, the Student Non-discrimination Act, which will give LGBT—lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students the protection they need and deserve in school. I will come back to the floor to discuss that amendment at length.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

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#### OBAMACARE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to talk about an issue that will have serious negative consequences on the lives and the livelihoods of millions of Americans and threaten our already muddled and beleaguered health care system. Ever since the partisan and rushed passage of the so-called Affordable Care Act, I have come to the floor dozens of times to shine a light on the problems associated with this law and to call for a swift repeal and replacement.

I have not been alone. Many of my colleagues have been working to make this case as well. Truth be told, this

has not been an altogether difficult case to make. Indeed, the data has repeatedly shown that ObamaCare, despite the many claims of its proponents, simply is not working. We have seen more evidence of this in just the past few days. For example, in a recent New York Times article, we all read about the dramatic proposed increases in health insurance premiums due to ObamaCare's expensive mandates and regulations.

Now, many plans are proposing rate increases that average 23 percent in Illinois, 25 percent in North Carolina, 31 percent in Oklahoma, 36 percent in Tennessee, and 54 percent in Minnesota. I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but my constituents find this unnerving. After all, one of the President's chief justifications for his health care law was that it would actually bring down the cost of health care. Once again, we are seeing that this is just another one of the many empty ObamaCare promises.

But even more frightening than these proposed rate increases are the root causes of the increases. In the recent New York Times article, Nathan T. Johns, the chief financial officer of Arches Health Plan, which operates in my home State of Utah, was quoted as saying: "Our enrollees generated 24 percent more claims than we thought they would when we set our 2014 rates."

This, according to Mr. Johns, led to a collection of just under \$40 million in premiums, while the company had to pay out more than \$56 million in claims for 2014. As a result, Arches Health Plan has proposed rate increases averaging 45 percent for 2016 in order to remain viable. Now, I know this was not at all the intention of my Democratic colleagues who voted for this bill, but it is because of this and a myriad of other unintended consequences that ObamaCare has consistently polled below 50 percent approval since the day it was signed into law.

Indeed, according to a compilation by Real Clear Politics, of the 405 polls collected since the law passed in March of 2010, 391 reported a majority of Americans opposing or having negative views toward ObamaCare. Unfortunately, President Obama seems to be disconnected from this reality. In a recent trip to Tennessee, the President called for consumers to put pressure on State insurance regulators to scrutinize the proposed rate increases. He then suggested that if commissioners do their job and actively review the rates, his "expectation is that they'll come in significantly lower than what's being requested."

But as Roy Vaughn, vice president of the Tennessee BlueCross plan stated:

There's not a lot of mystery to it. We lost a significant amount of money in the marketplace, \$141 million, because we were not very accurate in predicting the utilization of health care.

Yet President Obama fails to grasp the simple mathematics of the problem. He is not alone. In response to the

President's call for scrutiny, the Tennessee insurance commissioner was quoted as saying she would ask "hard questions of companies we regulate to protect consumers." Forgive me, but I fail to understand what hard questions there are to ask. If I own a business that takes in \$100 million in revenue but pays out \$120 million in expenses, I will not be solvent for very long.

What is perhaps most disconcerting to me in all of this are the responses these patients get from officials in the Obama administration. For example, in response to concerns about those premium hikes, Health and Human Services Secretary Burwell recently argued that patients should not worry because there are tax subsidies available to help cover the cost. She also said they could simply shop for cheaper plans on the exchanges during the next open enrollment period.

Of course, in a world where insurance plans across the country are requesting rate increases of 26—well, 20, 30, 40, or even 50 percent or more, one has to wonder just how many cheaper plans will be available and how many sacrifices patients will have to make in their care in order to get significant savings. While many seem to believe the Affordable Care Act received a reprieve from the Supreme Court, I think we are actually witnessing a downward spiral of ObamaCare. I cannot help but question what supposed solutions my friends on the other side of the aisle will come up with next.

Anyone who is being honest and who is listening to the American people should recognize that ObamaCare needs to be replaced with real, patient-centered reforms that are designed not to control the marketplace but to actually reduce the costs for hard-working patients and taxpayers. I am a co-author of such a plan, which we have called the Patient CARE Act. This legislative proposal, which I have put forward along with Senator BURR and Chairman FRED UPTON in the House, will reduce the cost of health care in this country without all of the expensive mandates and regulations that are causing these major increases in health insurance premiums.

I have talked about our proposal many times on the floor. I will continue to do so. I know there are other ideas out there, and I think we should consider and evaluate those as well. Put simply, I am willing to work with anyone on either side of the aisle to fix our Nation's health care system and to protect the American people from the negative consequences of this misguided law.

My hope is that more of our colleagues on the other side will eventually see what the majority of the American people have seen for more than 5 years: The problems with ObamaCare are not minor flaws that can be fixed with a little regulatory tinkering. They are fundamental flaws.

The only answer is real reform, which addresses the skyrocketing costs of health care in America.

With that, you can see that I am very, very concerned about ObamaCare and the fact that it is breaking America. It is not working. Costs are going up in a rapid basis. People are not being well served. The emergency rooms, which were supposed to be spared from all of this, are just full of Medicaid and Medicare patients who cannot find doctors now. Doctors are leaving the profession because of ObamaCare, in large measure, and we can't get help to those who really need the help because of the many restrictions in ObamaCare.

All I can say is that sooner or later we have to get off of our high horse, look at this, and look at it in a very effective, nonpartisan way, and either change it or get rid of it and replace it with something that will work much better and will be something the American people can live with.

There were approximately 35 million people who did not have health insurance before ObamaCare. That was a big issue. The President has cited that many times. Guess how many don't have insurance now with ObamaCare—how about 30, 35 million people.

So has this just been a big boondoggle so the President can take credit for something that doesn't work or are we going to do the thing that we all should as Members of Congress in the best interests of our citizens and change this bill and get one that really does work?

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, once again we find ourselves on a Thursday afternoon doing some final business before everybody returns home to meet with their constituents and do that work. I must say how much I appreciate your kind words and your attention when we have been talking about those North Dakotans who were killed in action in Vietnam.

This week the Senate commemorated that 50-year anniversary, and I know there are so many Members who care deeply. I know the Presiding Officer is among those Members. So I thank the Presiding Officer for his attention and his appreciation for the sacrifices of the men who I talk about weekly.

I rise today to speak about the men from North Dakota who died while serving in the Vietnam war. We are currently in a 13-year commemoration period honoring the veterans of the

Vietnam war. I had the privilege to learn from families of North Dakotans who died in the war about their loved ones—who their loved ones were and who they hoped they would be.

Before speaking today about some of the 198 North Dakotans who didn't return home from Vietnam, I publicly thank Dave Logosz for his service to our State and our Nation.

Dave is a Vietnam veteran from Dickinson. Dave had plans to become a mechanical engineer and enroll at Dickinson State University in art and engineering. After his first quarter, he decided to enroll in NDSU instead, but he was drafted before classes in Fargo began.

In 1969, he landed in Vietnam in the Army's 25th Infantry Division as a sniper. He says that his year in Vietnam was a long, tough one. He was injured more than once while serving there.

After David returned, he suffered from post-traumatic stress, but he didn't admit it until several years ago. He says the VA counseling that he has received has made a huge difference for him.

After his service in Vietnam, Dave worked for over two decades at the Dickinson plant until it closed, and then he worked for the North Dakota Department of Transportation. He says he is happily retired now.

Dave belongs to every veterans service organization he knows of. A few years ago, he and his wife hopped on Dave's Harley and rode from coast to coast on a veterans memorial bike ride. They ended their trip at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, DC—among a total of over 68,000 motorcycles and 911,000 people who were there. There Dave saw for the first time the name of his fellow soldier, Carl Berger, also from North Dakota.

Dave was with Carl when he was killed in Vietnam, and Dave carried Carl off the battlefield. Dave said that the experience of seeing Carl's name and visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall was emotional and heartwarming, and it gave him an idea. To give something back to his own community, Dave decided to build a veterans memorial honoring all service-members from Stark County.

So 3 years ago, inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, DC, he began with his idea for a memorial in Dickinson. He expects to have the memorial completed this summer.

The city of Dickinson donated space for the memorial park, and the memorial will consist of concrete and Vermont granite, listing the names of every person from Stark County who has served in the military since the Civil War and will include space for future names.

The entire memorial is 100 feet in diameter, includes 14 granite benches, and hundreds of bricks that individuals can personalize. Local artist Linda Lit-

tle sculpted a 6-foot-5-inch bronze statue of a soldier saluting the panels of names.

I really can't wait to see this memorial when it is completed and to thank Dave for his vision and hard work.

Now I wish to talk about Carl Berger and 10 other North Dakotans who gave the ultimate sacrifice during their service to our country.

CARL BERGER, JR.

Carl Berger, Jr., a native of Mandan, was born August 23, 1948. He served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division. Carl was 21 years old when he died on April 3, 1970.

Carl was the youngest of 13 children who grew up on the family farm. His nieces and nephews remember him as their fun-loving uncle. Growing up, Carl attended high school at the Richardton Abbey and played the French horn.

Carl's siblings remember having fun on their farm herding sheep and working together in the fields with the cattle and chickens. His sister Marian said that Carl was a genuine hard worker, and she is grateful that her children had an opportunity to know a man as wonderful as their Uncle Carl.

Carl was killed in Vietnam less than 2 months after starting his tour of duty.

The family cherishes the memories of that last Christmas they all spent together before Carl went to Vietnam. Carl's parents were devastated by his death, but they were also very proud of their son, who served their country. Carl's funeral was held during a blizzard, but despite that bad weather, the church was full.

LAURENCE ZIETLOW

Laurence Zietlow, a native of New Salem, was born August 30, 1928. He served as a sergeant major in the Army. Laurence was 39 years old when he died on October 3, 1967.

Laurence's desire to join the Army was so strong that he enlisted before graduating from high school. During his graduation ceremony, his diploma was given to his mother, Sophie Zietlow.

Prior to serving in Vietnam, Laurence also spent tours of duty in Japan, Germany, and Korea. Laurence's sister Leone said that a lot of Laurence's friends have told her how great a guy he was and that he would have given the shirt off his back. Laurence's sister Helen told her local newspaper that he didn't talk about many experiences from Vietnam, but he did describe buying gifts for Vietnamese children living in orphanages.

Laurence was killed in Vietnam when a landmine exploded near him. He was recognized with several awards, including the Air Medal, the Military Merit Medal, the Gallantry Cross with Palm Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star.

In addition to his mother and siblings, Laurence was survived by his three children: Larry, Terry, and Kristi.