

like this doesn't happen someplace else around the world. And what was Secretary Clinton's reaction to that report? She took responsibility immediately and began to implement the recommendations from the Accountability Review Board.

In summary, Republicans spent at least \$5 million to attack Secretary Clinton. On this one committee, this one select committee, they have spent \$4.7 or \$4.8 million. Republicans have done little to investigate the Benghazi attacks. And what little work House Republicans actually did only reconfirmed the basic findings of all three of these previous investigations.

House Republicans sadly have used the tragic deaths of four innocent Americans and turned it into an appalling political farce. The very notion that an official House committee was used as a political tool is inexcusable. I would suggest that the chairman of that committee should be ashamed of himself. It is even more disgraceful when nearly 5 million taxpayer dollars were spent on this political hit job.

Senate Democrats will continue to fight to get this sham of a committee disbanded. Weeks ago, we sent a letter to Speaker BOEHNER urging him to bring this disgraceful committee to an end, but, no, they are plodding forward. Today, Senate Democrats sent a letter to the Republican National Committee requesting that it reimburse the American people for the Benghazi Committee's expenses. Why did we do that? It is only fair since the so-called committee is clearly a Republican political organization.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate turns its attention to the cybersecurity bill. It is way overdue. The bill, which is OK, is better than nothing—let's put it that way.

The ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, Senator FEINSTEIN, and the chairman of that committee, Senator BARR, have worked hard on this legislation, which addresses a serious national security issue. In fact, it is so serious that we should have addressed this topic long ago. We tried to. As Senate Democrats, we tried so very hard. We had a comprehensive cybersecurity bill on the floor 3 years ago which was much deeper and better than this one—3 years ago—but our Republican colleagues blocked us from even debating the bill. We couldn't even debate the bill. Why? They, the Republicans, were told the chamber of commerce didn't like it. At about the same time, the chamber of commerce's whole operation was hacked by the Chinese. The people who worked down there expected things to come out in English, but they came out in Chinese. But they didn't like the bill anyway, so they told the Republicans to oppose it, and they marched over here and opposed it.

Democrats, however, realize cybersecurity is a serious issue. We know how important cybersecurity is for the national security of our country and the financial security of our economy.

Even though this bill is not our perfect bill, we are going to cooperate with our Republican colleagues. Several months ago we reached an agreement with Republicans to begin debating this legislation, and now we can process it in an efficient and bipartisan manner.

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

I withdraw that. The reason we were going to have a quorum call—I know other people want to have a chance to speak, but Senator MCCONNELL is on his way.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, before discussing the bill currently before the Senate, I would like to note that President Obama will be heading to West Virginia today with Drug Czar Botticelli to announce additional steps the Federal Government will take to address America's prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic.

This epidemic has been particularly devastating to my constituents. Today, drug overdoses—principally driven by painkillers—claim more Kentucky lives than car accidents. Today, increased heroin overdose rates account for nearly one-third of all drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth. Today, thousands of innocent babies are born dependent on opioids.

I recently hosted Director Botticelli in Kentucky to discuss critical issues such as these. I am encouraged to see him and the President engaged and proposing certain steps that my home State of Kentucky has already embraced.

Drug abuse certainly isn't a partisan issue. Many Members of the Senate are actively engaged on the matter. I know the President will be joined today by West Virginia's Republican Senator and Democratic Senator. Finding solu-

tions to this epidemic will require all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, to work together at the Federal, State, and local levels. Today's announcement is encouraging because it is always positive to see Republicans and Democrats working together to address this epidemic.

Here is another bipartisan opportunity for us to work together on this issue: Let's pass S. 799, the Protecting Our Infants Act. I hope the Senate will pass that important bipartisan legislation very soon.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this year, millions of people were affected when the Obama administration was hit by a devastating cyber attack. It is an attack that has been described as "one of the worst breaches in U.S. history," but it is hardly the last one we will face.

The challenges posed by cyber attacks are real, and they are broad. They threaten governments, businesses, and individuals. Americans see these threats in the public sector. For instance, as reports have indicated, the sensitive personal information of millions who purchase insurance through ObamaCare is especially vulnerable. Americans see these threats in the private sector as well. For instance, despite the cyber deal recently agreed upon between China and the administration, press reports indicate that Chinese hacking attempts on American companies and businesses appear to be continuing unabated. Americans also know that a cyber attack is essentially a personal attack on their own privacy. It is violating to think of strangers digging through our medical records and emails. It is worrying to think of criminals accessing credit card numbers and Social Security information.

That is why the Senate will again consider bipartisan legislation to help Americans' most private and personal information. It would do so by defeating cyber attacks through the sharing of information. It contains modern tools that cybersecurity experts tell us could help prevent future attacks against both public and private sectors. It contains important measures to protect individual privacy and civil liberties. It has been carefully scrutinized by Senators of both parties. In short, this legislation is strong, transparent, and bipartisan. Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass this legislation through committee, the administration supports it, and the House has already passed similar legislation. With a little cooperation, we can pass it here shortly as well.

The chair of the Intelligence Committee, Senator BARR, is working to set votes on pending amendments and has accommodated other Senators in the form of a substitute amendment. I wish to thank him for his hard work on this legislation. I wish to also thank

the vice chair, Senator FEINSTEIN, as well. Every Senator should want to protect Americans' most private and personal information, which means every Senator should want to see this bill pass. With a little cooperation, we will.

OBAMACARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, barely a week goes by that we don't see another harmful consequence of ObamaCare, a poorly conceived and badly executed law. It has caused costs to millions of Americans. It has harmed the quality and availability of care. Now comes further evidence that ObamaCare is a mess of a law, filled with broken promises.

We recently learned the Kentucky Health Cooperative, a nonprofit health insurer created by ObamaCare with Federal taxpayer funds, will cease operations and stop offering health care plans at the end of the year. For the second time in as little as 3 years, as many as 51,000 Kentuckians will lose the health care coverage they currently have and will be forced to choose a new plan—all thanks to ObamaCare. This Kentucky co-op was a boondoggle from the start. It received nearly \$150 million in Federal loans, including a solvency loan this past November in a failed taxpayer bailout to try to keep it afloat. It had the largest recorded loss of all 23 co-ops in our whole country. The Kentucky co-op had the biggest loss of any co-op in the whole country—more than \$50 million in 2014.

Things were hardly much better for the Kentuckians who actually enrolled in it. Over the past 2 years, the co-op saw double-digit premium increases on the individual market. If it had survived, it was planning on increasing premiums for its members by 25 percent in 2016. If this contraption had survived into next year, it was going to increase premiums by 25 percent.

Here is what the Kentucky co-op's CEO said about this particular government-subsidized health care plan: "In the plainest language, things have come up short of where they need to be."

That is for sure. If only we would have that kind of honesty from the Obama administration on the many failures of ObamaCare. The collapse of the Kentucky co-op is emblematic of the situation across the land. The Obama administration claimed their government-subsidized co-ops would provide affordable and sustainable alternatives to private insurance. The truth is anything but that. What is even more disappointing is that the Obama administration itself predicted a nearly 40-percent default rate on its taxpayer loans to co-ops.

Now, 21 of 23 co-ops nationwide were losing money as of the end of last year. Enrollment in these co-ops fell below projections for the majority of plans. Kentucky's neighbor to the south, Ten-

nessee, will shut down its co-op, leaving approximately 27,000 enrollees looking for new coverage at the end of the year. In Colorado, the State's biggest health insurer on their exchange—a nonprofit co-op—also announced its closure this month, forcing 83,000 Coloradans to find new insurance for next year. The same is true in Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, and Louisiana. From the bayous of Louisiana to the Pacific Northwest, from the Big Apple to the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, ObamaCare co-ops are failing all over America. In all, one-third of the 23 ObamaCare health co-ops have failed, leaving about 400,000 policyholders nationwide looking for new coverage for 2016.

These failures of ObamaCare health co-ops come as absolutely no surprise to those of us who predicted that giving the government more control of our health care system would be detrimental to the health care coverage people rely on. I said so on the Senate floor as far back as 2009.

The administration knew beforehand that this plan was not viable and that tens of thousands of people could lose their coverage. They chose to cling fast to a disastrous leftwing experiment with our health care system over choosing stability and affordable coverage for the many people caught up in ObamaCare and these failed health co-ops. What a colossal mess.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the majority leader and point out in today's New York Times, Wednesday, October 21, the big headline—"Insurance Out of Reach for Many, Despite Law." Despite this law, insurance is out of reach for many. I know my colleagues who were back home visiting with people around their home State last week, listening to what was on constituents' minds, heard exactly this—the problems of the health care law.

I was at home in Wyoming, and I heard from a lot of people who are very concerned about President Obama's collapsing health care law. That is what this law is doing; it is collapsing. People in Wyoming learned that one insurance company—WINhealth—will no longer be selling insurance through the ObamaCare exchange in our State. The company said it had to stop selling ObamaCare plans because there was no way to make money without big taxpayer subsidies coming from Washington. This company was already planning to raise rates significantly next year, and it turns out that even that wasn't going to be enough money to make it worthwhile. In less than 2 weeks, ObamaCare exchanges across the country will start selling insurance for next year. The total number of companies left selling insurance in the exchange for the State of Wyoming will be exactly one—one. There will be

no competition at all in the ObamaCare exchange. If your doctor doesn't take that insurance, you are out of luck. If you can't afford it, you are out of luck. Is that how ObamaCare was supposed to work? Is that what the President promised the American people?

I got an email from one of my constituents yesterday—Al Harris, a great guy, in Green River, WY, and he wrote: "HELP!!!!!!!" He said: "WINHealth has become the latest casualty of ObamaCare." Al says that at his business "I have about 30 people that now will have no insurance . . . at least not this insurance. I am scrambling with few options and I'm convinced any option will be substantially more expensive." Al said: "This train wreck needs to be stopped."

I agree. President Obama and Democrats in Congress made a mess of the health care system in our country, but they said they had a better way of doing things. They said they knew best how to create competition and how health care should operate in America. They created all these Washington mandates. They required people to buy expensive coverage that was more than most people wanted, needed or could afford. Then they created the exchanges where people could buy this new, expensive Washington-mandated insurance coverage. Now the people of Wyoming are left with one option on the ObamaCare exchange. Buy this insurance from this one company or the IRS will come knocking at your door to collect a big tax penalty. The penalty is going up next year.

Because of the significant failures of the Obama administration, rural Americans now have fewer choices. It is not just in Wyoming. We learned last week that insurance co-ops in Colorado, Oregon, and Tennessee are all closing their doors. Why? Because they have lost so much money. Eight of the twenty-three health care co-ops in the country have collapsed, completely collapsed in the last couple of months. Co-ops have closed in New York, Kentucky—as the majority leader said—in Louisiana, in Nevada, in Iowa, and Nebraska. Many are in rural areas where people already don't have a lot of choice.

We are talking about one-half million people who are going to lose their coverage, losing their insurance. Remember that promise President Obama made: If you like your coverage, you can keep your coverage. Where is the President now? The President says the health care law is working better than he even thought. Amazing. ObamaCare created these co-ops claiming to provide low-cost insurance. Then it saddled each of them with so many mandates and so many restrictions that they needed massive taxpayer bailouts. All together, these failed co-ops collected nearly \$900 million already in taxpayer loans to get the help they needed to get going. That is how President Obama put this together.