

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs police chief said:

There was no way any of us could have kept him here. He was always willing to go. . . . He had an enthusiasm that was hard to quell.

Officer Swasey is truly a hero in every sense of the word. Before joining the university police force, Officer Swasey was a Junior National Champion ice skater. Upon hearing the news of the tragedy, his skating partner, with whom he won that championship, observed:

Garrett was selfless, always there to help me, always my wingman. He was my brother and my partner. I could always count on him.

After his competitive career, Officer Swasey continued to teach skating. He also served as a copastor at Hope Chapel, which he and his family attended since 2001. At church he led care groups and taught Scripture and guitar. At services on Sunday, a fellow pastor at the church described how he felt. "You don't realize how much you love someone until you can't tell him anymore."

Our State is also mourning the loss of Ke'Arre Marcell Stewart. He was only 29 years old. Here is how his family and friends have described Ke'Arre: "a good friend and an amazing listener"; "one of the most caring men I've ever met"; "someone you could just sit and talk to about life"; "caring, giving, funny and just a damn good person."

Those traits were on display Friday when he was at Planned Parenthood accompanying a friend. He served our country in the Army and was deployed to Iraq between 2005 and 2006. Last week he died as he was trying to save others. According to reports, after being shot outside of the building, Ke'Arre ran back inside to warn others to seek safety. His family credits his military training and instinct for how he responded. Ke'Arre wasn't a native of Colorado. He was born in Texas, where he was a three-sport athlete, playing football, basketball, and running track. His friends say he moved to Colorado because he was stationed at Fort Carson and stayed, like so many of us, because he loved our beautiful State. Ke'Arre had two children, both daughters. They are 11 and 6 years old. His friend observed that "he loved his daughters to death. He would do anything for them."

Finally, the third victim, Jennifer Markovsky, was also accompanying a friend to the clinic on Friday. Jennifer grew up in Hawaii, where she met her husband who was serving in the Army at the time. About a decade ago—in a story similar to Ke'Arre's—they moved to Colorado when he was reassigned. Jennifer's family described her as a loving wife and mother to a young son and daughter. Her sister-in-law told the Colorado Springs Gazette: "She lived for her kids." She said Jennifer often took her children, who are 10 and 6, on hikes and spent time with them baking and working on crafts. Her fa-

ther, who had just wished her a happy Thanksgiving one day earlier, called her "the most lovable person . . . kind-hearted . . . always there when I needed her."

Yesterday her husband said:

She was a very caring and compassionate person and patient and understanding parent. She was deeply loved by all who knew her. She was always helping the kids do homework and reading books with them. We will miss her; her cooking, crafting and adventurous spirit.

Three young parents who woke up last Friday morning with long, bright futures ahead of them, with the chance to raise their children and watch them grow and learn, with the chance to contribute, as they had before, to our community and our country but instead whose lives were violently ended in a hail of gunfire—three strangers to each other, now joined together in our fondest memories. Nine others were wounded, and our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as well.

We should also honor and thank the Colorado Springs Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies that responded so swiftly and effectively. Five officers were wounded in the attack.

I wish to also recognize the employees at Planned Parenthood who worked tirelessly during the extended shooting and hostage incident to ensure that their patients were kept safe.

This is not the day to talk about how our country begins to emerge from this season of killing and violence, but let me simply say in recent years too many of our children and parents have had their lives stolen, and too many of the rest of us have lived to pursue the ordinary course of our lives—going to school, going to work, seeking health care—in the shadows of the question: Whose child will be next? Whose mom and dad will be next?

What we need today—instead of charged rhetoric and political tactics—is to find a way to at least begin figuring out how we can deal with these problems that we need to solve, how we can make things better.

I thank my colleagues for their comforting words this week, and I hope we will all take time in the days ahead to think of the families and victims involved in this tragedy. Take a moment to think of the kids who lost their mom or dad.

I have no doubt that the Colorado Springs community and our State will come together to heal during this difficult time. We could all take a cue from that here.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

OBAMACARE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, shortly we will be getting on a bill to repeal ObamaCare. It comes as a part of the

budget operation. It is a special debate that can result in the passage of a bill with 51 votes in the Senate. There will be a limit on the debate of 20 hours—10 hours for each side—to convey any messages that Senators may have about the bill and also to handle any amendments. At the end of the process there could be another vote-arama if there are a lot of amendments left over. This is an amendable bill. It has quite a few rules that fall under the budget process that make this a bit more difficult than just a wide-open bill, so there are rules that have to be met in order for an amendment to not affect the outcome of the bill.

Many of you have heard of the expression, I am sure, "caveat emptor," which means buyer beware. The President and the Democrats in Congress should have heeded this warning before forcing the country to purchase ObamaCare, which still remains unworkable, unaffordable, and more unpopular than ever. For millions of Americans the law today represents nothing more than broken promises, higher costs, and fewer choices.

It is no surprise that a Gallup poll published last month, more than 5 years after the law was passed and several years into actual implementation, shows that most Americans still oppose this unprecedented expansion of government intrusion into health care decisions for hard-working families and small businesses. Another poll I found interesting showed that more people were concerned about what has happened with health care than they do about climate change. That is appropriate for this week.

The law is saddling American households with more than \$1 trillion in new taxes over the next 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office, ObamaCare will cost taxpayers more than \$116 billion a year. In fact, on average, every American household can expect more than \$20,000 in new taxes over the next 10 years because of this bill. ObamaCare's crushing regulations mean smaller paychecks for families while holding back small businesses from expanding and hiring new workers. For every American, ObamaCare has meant more government, more bureaucracy, and more rules and regulations, along with soaring health care costs and less access to care.

When we were debating this bill 5 years ago, I remember talking about 30 million people in the United States being uninsured. Today there are 30 million people in the United States uninsured, it is just a different 30 million people. The ones who couldn't be insured are insured and the ones who were insured can't afford the insurance. Of course, there was a lot of talk about health care companies gouging the insured. We put in risk corridors so those who were making an excess profit would put in money that would go to those who didn't figure on the right number of people or how healthy the people would be who they insured. We

now know that didn't work. The amount of money that went into the fund was rather insignificant, so those who undercharged aren't getting much and companies are going out of business.

Today we take a crucial step forward in beginning to lift the burdens and the higher cost of this law that has been placed on all Americans. As I mentioned, this is a special budget operation that only requires 51 votes. The House has already passed a bill with more than a significant majority.

By the time we are done, the legislation the Senate passes will eliminate more than \$1 trillion in tax increases placed on the American people while saving more than \$500 billion in spending. Most importantly, this bill begins to build a bridge from the President's broken promises to a better health care system for hard-working families across the country.

Let's talk about the broken promises. As a Presidential candidate, then-Senator Obama promised Americans they could keep their health plan if they liked it. When he was in office and the bill was there, he said: If you like your plan, you can keep it. Millions soon learned they can't. This is because ObamaCare has drastically reduced America's choice among health care plans through a Federal Government takeover of the insurance marketplace. In fact, the President's promise, "If you like your plan, you can keep it," was named PolitiFact's "Lie of the Year" in 2013 after the health care plan cancellations were mailed to over 4 million Americans.

Let's talk about the higher costs. Americans were also promised lower health care costs, but even the administration admits ObamaCare is failing to address costs and said average premiums are expected to rise by 7.5 percent this year. Recent headlines from across the country actually show much more dramatic increases.

In Minnesota insurance policies on the exchange have rate hikes in the double digits—between 14 and 49 percent. In Oregon premiums for the benchmark plan on the exchange will go up about 23 percent. In Alaska the premium hike will be more than 31 percent for the benchmark plan. In Oklahoma the second lowest cost silver plan premiums will increase more than 35 percent. In Utah plans on the federally run exchange will be 22 percent higher next year.

The President of the United States himself promised that this bill was not a tax. In fact, this was one of the law's top selling points because Democrats knew it would never pass if they said it was a tax, but while they got the bill passed and signed into law, the Supreme Court later ruled it is a tax. This law was deceptively sold to the American people and now these hidden taxes are being passed on to hard-working families in the form of higher fees and costs. It is time for Democrats in Congress and the President to admit

that ObamaCare is a \$1 trillion tax hike that families and employers simply can't afford.

We can talk about fewer choices. ObamaCare's mandates and taxes on employer-sponsored health care plans are not only leading to higher out-of-pocket expenses but also fewer choices and services for 150 million Americans who have relied upon job-based health benefits for decades. It eliminated some of the competition, and competition is the real way to bring down prices.

I remember when we did Medicare Part D. I was a little concerned because there were only two companies that were providing the pharmaceutical benefit in Wyoming, and I thought they would maybe drop out of the program, but Medicare Part D increased competition. What did increased competition do? It brought down the price of the pharmaceuticals by 25 percent before it even went into effect.

ObamaCare didn't provide for more competition. According to the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation, employees who have job-based insurance have witnessed their out-of-pocket expenses, on average for an individual, climb from \$900 in 2010 to \$1,300 in 2015. Employees working for small businesses now have deductibles of over \$1,800. Since ObamaCare became law, several large employers have stopped offering benefits to part-time employees, including Walmart, Target, Home Depot, and Trader Joe's. The premiums have gone up and the deductibles have gone up. There are fewer choices and higher costs.

So this was supposed to build a bridge to better care. Over the past 50 years, our Nation has made great strides in improving the quality of life for all Americans, but these transformative changes were always forged in the spirit of bipartisan compromise and cooperation. These qualities are essential to the success and longevity of crucial programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

Shortly before he retired in 2001, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Democrat from New York, said:

Never pass legislation that affects most Americans without real bipartisan support. It opens the doors to all kinds of political trouble.

Senator Moynihan correctly noted that the side that didn't support the law will focus on each and every misstep. More importantly, he predicted that the measure's very legitimacy would always be in doubt and that the majority of Americans would have trouble supporting it in the long run unless it unquestionably achieved all of its goals.

We have seen each of these scenarios play out over the past 5 years as the health care law has polarized America like nothing before.

Bipartisan support, of course, means that both sides get some things into the mix of the bill. That did not happen

even though we had a very extensive amendment process in committee and on the floor. Essentially, the Republican ideas were all thrown out. Both sides weren't included, so it was not a bipartisan bill.

After passage of the bill, we had a special time at the Blair House where there were half Republicans and half Democrats who got to speak with the President for a day. The amazing thing at that meeting was that every time a Republican mentioned an idea, the President blasted it immediately. When the Democrats suggested an idea, those were all good. At the end of the day, it turned out to be very much a waste of time because not a single idea was even considered that was brought up at that time by the Republicans.

We still need health care reform, but it has to be done the right way—not comprehensive. In my opinion, "comprehensive" means so large that nobody can understand it, and that is kind of what happened with this bill. We have to do it step by step. They can be pretty big steps, but if we do it step by step, we can bring the American public along. They can understand it, and they can tell us the unintended consequences, and those can be fixed. It would be correctable. This bill hasn't been correctable. We have known the flaws. The President has put waivers on to keep us from noticing them sooner. We have offered to make corrections but have never been taken up on our offer.

Providing access to high-quality, affordable health care is something I am confident that Democrats and Republicans should be able to do. It is time to build a bridge from the broken promises to better health care for each and every American once and for all.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 4 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
The Senator from Vermont.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Budget Committee, I rise in strong opposition to the budget reconciliation bill we are debating today. In fact, this bill should tell every American just how far removed the Republican leadership here in Congress is from the realities of American life and the needs of the American people.

At a time when the United States is the only major country on Earth that does not guarantee health care to all people; when 29 million Americans today have no health insurance and even more are underinsured, with high