

except that for purposes of enrollment in such plans, the provisions of paragraph (2) of such section 1302(e) shall not apply.

(b) INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.—Coverage under a catastrophic plan under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be minimum essential coverage for purposes of section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Agriculture’s Role in Combating Global Hunger.”

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 4 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing entitled “JCPOA Oversight: The IAEA’s Report on the Possible Military Dimensions of the Iranian Nuclear Program.”

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA)—5 Years Later: How have the justice systems in Indian Country improved?”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Protecting Trade Secrets: the

Impact of Trade Secret Theft on American Competitiveness and Potential Solutions to Remedy This Harm.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Administration’s Criminal Alien Removal Policies.”

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 2, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff members from my staff and from Senator SANDERS’ staff be given all-access floor passes for the duration of the consideration of H.R. 3762: Greg D’Angelo, George Everly, Tori Gorman, and Clint Brown from my staff; and Mike Jones, Josh Smith, Jill Harrelson, and Josh Ryan from Senator SANDERS’ staff.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern Jeff Slyfield and my intern Maria Givens be given privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 324, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 324) designating December 3, 2015, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 324) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 325, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 325) permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 325) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 3762, with the time until 1:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; finally, that all debate time on H.R. 3762 be deemed expired at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Tillis and Ernst.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

OBAMACARE

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, promises, promises, promises. Day in and

day out, I hear stories of the broken promises of the President's failed health care law in Iowa and across the country.

President Obama promised health insurance premiums would go down by \$2,500. They haven't. In fact, the President's own administration admits that nationwide, premiums in the exchange for the next year have increased by more than 7 percent. The outlook for my State is even worse, with Iowans facing more than a 12-percent increase in premiums.

President Obama's promises don't pay these bills. Real folks in Iowa and across the country do.

Mark from Urbandale shared with me that the double-digit premium increases his family faces for 2016 are unsustainable and that it may be more cost effective to pay the individual mandate penalty instead.

Similarly, Angela from Centerville said that the plan she had hoped to purchase for 2016 increased by nearly \$200, and that was the cheapest option for her. If she keeps her current coverage, her family will be strapped with a nearly \$1,000-per-month bill for health insurance. She asks: "How is it possible that the Affordable Care Act has made health care so unaffordable?"

Let me say that again: How is it possible that the Affordable Care Act has made health care so unaffordable?

It is a question I get when traveling all across the State of Iowa. The answer is pretty simple. ObamaCare is wrongly rooted in a Washington-knows-best mentality. Instead of empowering families and individuals to determine what they want and need in their health care plans, Washington has replaced choice with new one-size-fits-all mandates and taxes. It is another costly example of the Washington way failing everyday Americans.

The sad reality is that the consequences of this failed law go far beyond these unaffordable premium increases. Americans were promised job creation and economic growth, but instead we have seen employers reduce employee hours in an effort to avoid ObamaCare's employer mandate.

Small businesses, such as employers at a marina in Okoboji, have halted their plans to expand and create new jobs because of the mandate. They have even quit hiring folks to fill open jobs and had to cut back on hours for their existing employees to bring them to part time.

As employers brace themselves for the impending Cadillac tax, employees are already feeling the effects: rapidly increasing out-of-pocket costs. In fact, Ryan, from Newton, recently learned that his deductible will be doubling next year in anticipation of the tax going into effect.

ObamaCare is not helping these folks; it is hurting them. At a time when we want to see job growth and rising wages, this is simply the wrong approach. Broken promises don't cut it.

Today we have the opportunity to roll back some of ObamaCare's most harmful provisions. Today we can provide much needed relief from the individual and employer mandates and stop the law's trillion dollars in tax hikes—like the health insurance tax, the medical device tax, and the Cadillac tax—from being passed on to the American people. Today we can put patients and doctors back in the driver's seat when it comes to their health care decision-making.

Today I will stand up for Iowans and people all across America to fulfill our promise to them. I am committed to stopping this failed law and paving the way to implement patient-centered options that ensure folks have affordable coverage and access to needed health care services.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MR. TILLIS. Mr. President, last year the Presiding Officer and I and a number of us went out to the folks in our great States and we promised that if we were elected into a majority, we would do everything we could to repeal and replace ObamaCare. The process the American people are going to witness over the next 24 hours is our fulfillment of that promise.

It will take 51 votes to send a bill to the President's desk that repeals the most egregious provisions of ObamaCare. Once we do that, we can begin to start the process of addressing the legitimate health care problems instead of an option that has made the problems worse. It is a system that will control costs and put patients first. It is a system that puts choice first. It is a system that puts quality ahead of partisan politics.

This will be an open process that we will go through tomorrow, and that is the way it should be. That means it will require some tough votes. Many of my friends on the right may not particularly like or enjoy the amendments that will be offered and then voted on, but I, for one, when confronted with a vote I may otherwise like to support—if I feel it prevents us from moving forward and being successful in sending this bill to the President's desk, then I am prepared to make those tough votes to be absolutely certain we fulfill that fundamental promise of repealing ObamaCare.

However, in the end, this is about doing everything we can to keep our promise to the American people. While we in Congress will put our conscience over politics—if we do—the President seems to put politics over what I believe he and many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know is a failed policy. This is exactly the underlying failure of ObamaCare. It was a never-ending list of promises and assurances that have not and never will be realized.

We all remember the same promise we heard over and over again from the President: If you like your health care,

you can keep it. If you like your doctors, you can keep them. That has absolutely not happened in my great State of North Carolina, and I would daresay it hasn't happened across the Nation. Millions of Americans were kicked off their plans and given a set of alternatives that were drastically more expensive. They were told they could no longer see the doctors they had visited and trusted for years.

In North Carolina alone, we had over 470,000 cancellation notices. When they promised that if you liked your health care plan, you could keep it, there was a little asterisk there, and the asterisk was, you can keep it if the Federal Government determines that a policy you are satisfied with, they are satisfied with. That is how they say they kept their promise, but it was an empty promise and they haven't kept it.

We also remember the President's promises to make health care more affordable, boasting that ObamaCare would reduce premiums by \$2,500. That hasn't happened either. In North Carolina, during the first full year of the exchange rollout, premium prices increased and outpaced the increases in wages and inflation. The average home is spending more on health care and getting less in their paycheck.

The premium prices in the individual insurance market increased by 147 percent—147 percent. This leads to the problem of people having insurance they can't afford to use because they can't afford their deductible or their copay. It has created real-life horror stories of families struggling to make the choice between paying for their health care and paying to keep food on their table.

Last month I received a letter from a North Carolina couple nearing retirement who are lifelong small business owners. These are their words:

Last year, our premiums for a bare bones policy was nearly \$1,000 a month. It is a terrible policy, but nothing else was available within our budget. I received the 2016 rate late last Friday. The premium is going up 40 percent.

So now that \$1,000-a-month policy will cost them \$1,400 a month with a higher deductible.

The letter continues:

For the first time in my adult life we may have to forgo having health insurance and take our chances.

I received another letter from another North Carolinian. He wrote:

I'm a self-employed person barely making ends meet. My wife works 60 hours a week. We might take home close to \$40,000 a year. We have done our best to make it on our own with no government assistance. Back in 2008, the company I worked for shut down. Since then, we have gone through all our life savings to make ends meet. When I first started buying our health insurance in 2008, our premiums were around \$600 for me and my two daughters. Just received our letter and found out our new premium will jump to \$1,700 a month.

These stories are heartbreaking, and they are not unique to North Carolina.

I know each and every Senator, whether they support ObamaCare or want to repeal it, has received similar stories from constituents chronicling how ObamaCare has caused them immeasurable financial and emotional hardship and no better access to affordable health care.

I can tell you that with nearly every one of these letters and calls to my office I receive, my constituents also express their desire for Congress to vote for repeal of the ObamaCare law. It has caused so much pain, and it hasn't solved any problems. That is exactly what the Senate is going to do tomorrow. We are going to keep our word—something I think sometimes citizens feel we just don't do enough of up here in this Chamber. We are going to send a bill to the President's desk that repeals the most egregious portions of ObamaCare.

Keep in mind that many of the bad things that will occur with ObamaCare are not even in place today. If you don't like it now, I guarantee you will not like it next year even more so.

Again, I want to get back to the process for a minute. This process we are going through is one of the unique instances where we can pass a bill and send it to the President's desk with 51 votes. Normally it takes 60. In order for us to be able to pass it with 51 votes, it is going to require us to be very strict in terms of what this bill may or may not have in it. There are going to be games played tomorrow. There will be amendments put out there that Members know would prevent us from being able to send this bill to the President's desk.

I, for one, am going to stand with the leadership, who I appreciate having the courage to bring this bill forward and

make sure that we take votes and send this bill—a fulfillment of my promise to the citizens of North Carolina—to the President's desk. And to those who vote against it, Americans, take notice because they are not listening to you. They are not reading the letters and hearing the stories I hear every single day, and they should be held accountable when they are next up for reelection.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for his time today, and I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.