

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2015—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound disappointment in President Obama's recent decision to veto H.R. 3762, the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015. It is important to be clear and stand with my constituents in voting to override the President's veto of legislation that is a story of broken promises by President Obama and the Democrats who voted in favor of this legislation.

I want to spend a few minutes describing just a few of the promises made during consideration of Obamacare which have sadly failed to come to fruition. First, Mr. Speaker, President Obama repeatedly told the American people that "If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep it". Sadly, in reality, it couldn't be further from the truth. More than 4.7 million people received cancellation notices in the fall of 2013, right before Obamacare went into effect. Politifact, no friend to conservatives, even went as far as labeling the President's promise the "Lie of the Year."

Secondly, while Obamacare promised lower healthcare costs and lower premiums, this couldn't be further from the truth. First, on lower healthcare costs, according to CMS' own actuaries, overall spending on healthcare is expected to rise by \$621 billion over 10 years due to the law, at an average of 5.8% per year. That's more than double our projected GDP growth, and a higher rate than before Obamacare. The story on premiums is no better. While President Obama promised lower premiums, as John Adams stated, "facts are stubborn things". The facts are that the average premium for a family plan has increased by \$18,610 from 2009–2013, and the overall cost of premium increases have been over \$1.2 trillion.

Third, Mr. Speaker, Obamacare promised more choice, more competition, and lower costs. Well, unfortunately, that is just not the case in Oklahoma, like many other states across the country. In fact, fewer insurers offer fewer options at higher prices than when Obamacare was passed, over my objections. Obamacare is not the answer and the American people know that.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to co-sponsor the American Health Care Reform Act of 2015 (AHCA), which I support as an alternative to a government-managed health care law. This legislation would provide a number of market-driven solutions to ensure everyone seeking coverage will be able to obtain it. First, it expands federal support for state high

risk pools. Unlike Obamacare, which created an already oversubscribed Federal high risk pool, AHCA returns those concerns to the states, provides the necessary funding to sustain them, and caps the premiums in those plans. Additionally, AHCA tax incentives to equalize the treatment of employer-sponsored coverage and those purchased in the private market. In addition to ensuring healthy competition across the market place, it also ensures that if one loses their job, they do not necessarily have to lose their health insurance. Third, AHCA would provide real competition among insurers, by allowing Americans to purchase health insurance products across state lines and by permitting small businesses to pool together to negotiate better rates. AHCA is the type of legislation needed to replace a bloated, government-run healthcare system which has left a trail of broken promises in its wake.

I am pleased to vote to override the President's veto of H.R. 3762. While I know this vote will not be successful, I am pleased that the President has finally had to confront the issues that the American people have with his signature piece of legislation, the so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, Obamacare is none of these things. I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of overriding the President's veto.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: THE FLINT, MICHIGAN, WATER CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank Congressman DAN KILDEE for his tireless work to bring justice for the residents of Flint. His work, and the work of Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, and so many Members of the Michigan Delegation, is essential to providing the families of Flint a voice as we address this crisis.

Madam Speaker, the situation in Flint is nothing short of a tragedy—and a tragedy that could have been prevented.

Every day, we learn more information about how Michigan public officials sacrificed the health and futures of Flint residents in order to save a few dollars in water costs.

This is a shame and a disgrace. The people of Flint deserve better from their leaders.

As Members of Congress, we cannot stand silent while Americans are poisoned.

First, to truly understand this crisis—you have to understand Flint.

Flint is a majority African American city and the average household income is just \$24,834 a year—that's barely HALF the average household income for the state. Let me say that again, the average household in Flint

earns JUST half of what other Michigan households earn.

Even before the water switched from Detroit to the Flint River, Flint had fallen on hard times.

It was a city in need and instead of taking action, Governor Rick Snyder balanced the budget at the expense of Flint children, their health and their safety.

Even after residents complained of brown water coming out of the taps, the state insisted nothing was wrong.

But not everyone got the same treatment.

Last January—a full year ago—state workers complained about the quality of water. While Flint residents were told the water was perfectly safe, the state employees were provided with bottled water.

Even before that, in October 2014, the Flint General Motors factory complained that the water was corroding car parts. The city helped General Motors tap into a different, safer water line.

While officials lined up to protect state employees and corporate profits, the residents of Flint were fed lies and lead.

Madam Speaker—I have to ask:

Would this have happened in another city, where the residents had the advantage of wealth?

Or do these gross breaches of public trust only happen in cities where politicians see the residents as expendable?

Sadly, I think we all know the answer to that question.

Tragically, this isn't the first time a poor town has been poisoned—and then ignored.

In far too many low-income communities and communities of color across the country, this story is very familiar.

They, like the families in Flint, have had their health, their well-being and their futures traded in by callous politicians more concerned with expanding corporate profits than serving the public good.

It's past time for Congress to take steps to address environmental racism and ensure that everyone—no matter their zipcode—has the opportunity to grow up safe and healthy.

President Obama took the first step by declaring a state of emergency and extending \$80 million in federal funding.

But more can and must be done to address this public health crisis and ensure that this never happens again—in any community, anywhere.

When I was in the California legislature, I worked to pass one of the first state bills regulating lead. This toxin was disproportionately impacting communities of color. I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of lead on children.

I support the work of my colleagues who are demanding state and local officials are held accountable for this man-made disaster, a disaster that never should have happened.

The tragedy in Flint reveals the real impacts of structural and institutional racism and classism on our community. I stand with the people of Flint in my outrage and will continue to demand answers.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

As we do so, we must come together to address the impacts of lead poisoning on Flint's residents, particularly Flint's children. Because, sadly, for them, this crisis is just beginning.

IN RECOGNITION OF PINE FORGE
ACADEMY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pine Forge Academy for providing 70 years of exemplary education to Pennsylvania's 7th District.

Pine Forge Academy is a co-educational boarding school that serves grades 9 through 12. It is a part of the Seventh-Day Adventist education system, the world's second largest Christian school system.

Today, the school remains committed to providing African-American high school students with an exemplary education, a chance to develop their faith and to prepare for a life of service.

Mr. Speaker, Pine Forge Academy has been changing the lives of young men and women for the past 70 years. I congratulate the school and look forward to seeing the excellent work it will continue to do in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF LEBANON VALLEY
COLLEGE

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Lebanon Valley College. Lebanon Valley College was founded on February 23, 1866. For 150 years it has delivered quality liberal arts educational instruction to its students.

During this time, the school has grown to become a vital and vibrant part of the culture and community of Lebanon County and of Annville Township.

Lebanon Valley College currently offers thirty-six undergraduate majors to its student body of approximately sixteen hundred undergraduate students. At various times, the U.S. News & World Report, the Princeton Review and Forbes have all placed the school on their respective lists recognizing America's best colleges.

Mr. Speaker, I warmly extend my congratulations to the students, faculty, employees, administrators and alumni of Lebanon Valley College on the happy occasion of their Sesquicentennial. I extend my congratulations to Lebanon Valley College for its outstanding record of successfully providing so many young men and women with a strong liberal arts education, and wish continued growth and success for the College and all of its students.

NATIONAL TRAUMA INSTITUTE
RECOGNITION

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, traumatic injury in America affects everyone, claiming over 190,000 lives and costing hundreds of billions of dollars in healthcare annually. It is the number one cause of death for Americans between 1 and 46 years old. As a result, in 2006, the National Trauma Institute was founded in San Antonio, Texas, to stop unnecessary suffering from trauma through prevention, education and research. Ten years later, the National Trauma Institute celebrates a decade of trauma research advocacy and funding.

The National Trauma Institute has enjoyed much success throughout its first decade in existence advocating for federal appropriations for trauma-related research so that patients can receive care faster and more efficiently. To date, the organization has been responsible for securing \$55 million in funding for trauma-related research, special projects and research infrastructure. That \$55 million has made an incredible impact on millions of Americans, allowing them to survive injuries that were once unthinkable and go on to lead healthy productive lives.

There is no question that the National Trauma Institute, founded in San Antonio, Texas, has contributed to trauma research that has saved and dramatically improved lives. The organization has become a pillar of the community and is now the leading voice of advocacy for the funding of clinical trauma research. I am proud to congratulate The National Trauma Institute for its incredible achievements for San Antonio and the rest of the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed several votes last week while meeting with the Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of the Sudan. I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll Call No. 55—No

Roll Call No. 56—No

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF PEORIA CHARTER
COACH COMPANY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a remarkable business, Peoria Charter Coach Company, an icon of Central Illinois celebrating their 75th anniversary.

Peoria Charter Coach Company started in Lacon, Illinois under Walter Winkler who had nothing but the earnest desire to put his community first. After seeing his fellow citizens struggle to travel to work due to the World War II gas rations, he opened a bus service so that others around him could safely commute to work to earn their paychecks.

Seventy-five years later and now headquartered in Peoria, Illinois, four generations of Winklers have found many other ways to serve their community. From transporting war-time United States Defense Workers and Military Personnel to serve their country to helping schoolchildren to attend classes, from assisting college students returning home for the holidays to serving locals looking to catch a ball game in Chicago, the Winklers continue to pride themselves on assisting others. To date, the Peoria Charter Coach Company now carries an impressive half million passengers over four million miles annually.

I am thankful that America has been a country where hard-working families with a vision, such as the Winklers can grow their small business, employ others, and serve their fellow Americans. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Winkler Family and Peoria Charter Coach Company for their impressive accomplishments and thank them for their continued service to the 18th District. I wish them seventy-five more years of good fortune and safe travels.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. WAYEDEAN BEATRICE
MCGRAW

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mrs. Wayedean Beatrice McGraw of Broward County, Florida, who sadly passed away on Friday, January 1, 2016 at age 73. Wayedean was born in Leeds, Alabama where she attended Moton High School. She later moved to Florida where she worked providing private home health care in various locations throughout Broward County. She worshipped at Bethel Baptist and Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church, now known as Greater Providence Baptist Church.

Wayedean is survived by her three loving children, Bruce, Annette and Ronald; seven wonderful grandchildren: Cornelius Sr., Valencia, Antwon Sr., Calvin Sr., Marquis, Brittanya and Lauren; ten great grandchildren: Roy, Cornelius Jr., D'Naisah, Kristian, Antwon Jr., A'Niyah, Nakyla, Calonne, Calvin Jr., and Makai; one sister, Nancy of Oakland Park, Florida; and many loving nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Her mother, Arlene, and four siblings: Jean, Mary, Paul and Charles all preceded her in death.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to celebrate the incredible life of Mrs. Wayedean Beatrice McGraw, and express my deepest condolences to her family. I know that her spirit, loving memory, and legacy will always live on.