

According to a Gallup poll released just this morning, many more Americans report that ObamaCare has hurt rather than helped their families—and many more Americans say that ObamaCare will make their family's health situation worse rather than better over the long run.

Is it any wonder? Americans were told that ObamaCare would allow them to keep the health plans they liked. They couldn't. Americans were told that ObamaCare would drive down health care premiums by \$2,500 per family. It hasn't. Americans were told that ObamaCare would not raise taxes on the middle class. It did. Americans were told that ObamaCare would increase choice and competition. The very opposite is proving true.

And remember the promise that “if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor”? It has been broken too. In fact, the Obama administration recently erased references to “keeping your doctor” from its Web site. These entirely predictable consequences are not just flukes or quirks of ObamaCare. They are not just small wrinkles in the system that will work themselves out with time. They represent fundamental flaws built into the law's original design.

Republicans warned about ObamaCare's consequences repeatedly from the very start. Democrats mocked us for doing so and rammed through their partisan law anyway. Every single Democrat in the Senate was needed to pass it, and they got every one of them.

I invite Democrats to now consider following the lead of one of the President's own former health care advisers who recently penned an op-ed titled “How I was wrong about ObamaCare.” The problems Democrats caused for the middle class aren't going away until ObamaCare does. So if Democrats are serious about helping the middle class, they will work with us to build a bridge beyond ObamaCare to better care. Anything else is just more hollow rhetoric.

Today, 6 years on, ObamaCare is failing the middle class, but the President still hasn't offered a serious solution to fix it. He is now trying to convince Americans that the solution to his bloated, unwieldy, and expensive law is to make it more bloated, more unwieldy, and more expensive. In other words, it is more of the same—more of the same, just worse. His preferred Presidential candidate says the same thing. So do congressional Democrats.

How can anyone conclude, after reading all these stories about how ObamaCare is hurting the middle class, that what we need now is more ObamaCare in the form of a government-run plan? That is their solution now—more ObamaCare in the form of a government-run plan.

Look, Democrats can continue to spin us on how great this law is. They can continue to tell Americans to “get over” this law and its pain for the mid-

dle class. They can continue to laugh at Americans who lose their plans. They can continue to crow about exploiting “the stupidity of the American voter” to push this partisan law on the middle class. Or they can work with us to move beyond the failed experiment of ObamaCare. They can prove that they are finally willing to put people before ideology.

This much is clear: ObamaCare is a direct attack on the middle class. It hurts the very people it was designed to help. It raises costs, crushes choice, and is now crashing down around us. It simply isn't working.

To quote what President Obama said 6 years ago, “The bottom line is this: The status quo of health care is simply unsustainable.”

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it seems it was just a few minutes ago, but it wasn't; it was 15 years ago that, just a few feet from where I stand now, I went to a meeting. It was approaching 9 o'clock, and no one was in the room, S-211. Senator Breaux from Louisiana walked in, and he said: Flip on the TV. And we did. We could see the tower had been hit in New York. We thought a plane had hit it by mistake. So we shut off the TV and Senator Daschle came in and started the meeting. In just a few minutes, some people came in and ushered Senator Daschle out of the meeting. He came back in quickly and said: The building has to be evacuated; there is a plane headed toward the Capitol. As we walked out of the room and looked out the window, we could all see the smoke billowing from the place we learned was the Pentagon. I will always remember that. Of course I will. And, of course, we have learned since of the many heroes of that day—people running not away from danger but toward danger.

On that day, I was first taken home. I had to rush back to the Capitol, through police barricades. Four Members of the leadership were helicoptered out of the Capitol to a secure location outside of DC. As the sun was going down, we came back to the Capitol steps. BARBARA MIKULSKI, the Senator from Maryland, who is known for giving dynamic speeches, didn't give a speech that day. In front of this bipartisan group of Senators, she very simply said: I think what we should sing is “God Bless America.” We all did that. It was a beautiful rendition of all the varied voices of Senators, Republicans and Democrats, singing that song. We didn't know what that meant—what tomorrow would bring—but that gave us some inspiration to think about how great our country is.

The perpetrators sought to attack our democracy, our way of life, but

they failed. The tragedy of that day reminded every American of our collective strength and resilience, led by George Bush who did such a remarkable job of rallying the Nation.

We exhibited the best of ourselves in front of the world, and we resolved to degrade and destroy the terrorists responsible. After many failed attempts and in spite of some people saying “Let's wait,” President Obama said “Let's do this.” And they killed Bin Laden. That was the right thing to do. It was a courageous move on behalf of President Obama but the right thing to do. He was ultimately brought to justice.

Today, 15 years later—I will always remember that experience a few feet from here, but we will all remember, in our own way, September 11, and in our own way honor the victims and the heroes of that day and never forget. We are always stronger together when we are united.

#### OBAMACARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have trouble comprehending my friend the Republican leader—how he can, with a straight face, talk about how terrible America is today. Things are upside down; it is terrible.

Remember, Obama was elected President almost 8 years ago. That month, under the prior administration, for lots of reasons we have all talked about, our country lost 800,000 jobs in one month. That wasn't the only month. Our unemployment rate shot up in places like the Presiding Officer's and my State to more than 14 percent. Unemployment in America was raging. Major companies failed. I saw the Secretary of Treasury on his knees in the White House begging the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, for help.

We joined together with President Bush. There was nothing partisan about what we did. Even though there were some small steps, we did our best to help the country. Since then, under the last 8 years of President Obama's leadership, the country has been significantly turned in the right direction.

For my friend the Republican leader to parrot what Donald Trump is saying: “Make America great again”—America is great right now. Unemployment is less than 5 percent. Millions of jobs have been created in this administration—millions and millions of jobs—about 16 million.

We have no ground troops, except in Afghanistan. They have been brought home, and rightfully so. To hear my friend the Republican leader talk about the awfulness of ObamaCare—you don't have to have a long memory to know what it was like before ObamaCare. Insurance companies were canceling policies, denying insurance, not writing insurance because you are a woman, because you had a prior disability. I don't know if my friend is briefed by his office, reads the newspapers, or watches

the news. Three days ago the word came out that the uninsured are at all-time lows in our country. Ninety-two percent of Americans have health insurance. Is that bad? Is the insurance perfect? Of course it is not. We have 19 States led by Republican Governors who refuse to accept Medicaid. The Republican Governor from Nevada made the right choice, and it has been good for the State of Nevada.

It is interesting that after more than 6 years, we still have never seen a plan by the Republicans and what they want to do other than vote against ObamaCare. ObamaCare has expanded coverage to millions of Americans. It has improved the quality of health insurance. A lot of people who don't like the plan don't like it because they don't think it is strong enough and they want to do more. The marketplace will continue to connect Americans to quality, affordable health insurance.

I thought Republicans believed in the free enterprise system, and that is what we have with ObamaCare. The health insurance marketplace is so much better than pre-Affordable Care Act. They should stop trying to repeal ObamaCare and work with us to improve what we have. It is not going to go away.

The Affordable Care Act has shown that it has had a positive impact on the stated goal of lowering the number of people without coverage. Millions of people have health insurance who didn't before. He and other Republicans continue to come down to the floor and complain, although not as often as they used to because they have been embarrassed too many times. The Republican leader seems to think that things were better before Americans had coverage, including the 500,000 people in Kentucky who now have insurance because of ObamaCare. I guess he seems to be saying that he liked it better when insurance companies could deny coverage for any reason that they thought was appropriate; it didn't have to be a good reason.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day. I had occasion to visit with our former colleague, Gordon Smith, a tremendously good Senator from the State of Oregon, while I was in Las Vegas a couple of weeks ago. Even now we often speak—as we did in Las Vegas that evening—about our experience with those who have committed suicide. Gordon lost a son, I lost a father, and there are a small number of people here in this room today—if we could do an oral poll, we would find that many people in this room have been affected by suicide.

Think about it. Each year, about 33,000 people commit suicide. That is a lot of people. It took me a while to accept not feeling sorry for myself and to try to do something about it, and we

have done some things here as a body about suicide.

We really don't understand it very well. For example, most suicides occur in the western part of the United States. I would have thought just the opposite. The West has bright, sunshiny skies, and the weather is a lot better than places like New York, but for some reason, west of the Mississippi, we have a problem with suicide that doesn't occur in other places.

It is a national problem, and we have to do something about it. We have 33,000 people die every year, and those are the ones we know about. There are hunting accidents, car accidents, and hiking accidents that are really suicides but they are not acknowledged as such.

From 1999 through 2014, the suicide rate in the United States increased by 24 percent, both men and women of all ages. Women are now becoming more equal to men in killing themselves.

If we are going to actively address the increasing rate of suicides, we can't ignore the role firearms play. Guns are the most common device men turn to when they commit suicide. That is according to the CDC and not some left-wing group the Republicans like to harangue about. Almost 23,000 suicides were carried out with firearms in 2013—that is the last information that we have—which is 10 percent higher than 3 years earlier.

We don't really know what is happening in the military. Twenty-two people in the military will kill themselves today. It is mostly done after they have been honorably discharged from the military.

We need to invest in evidence-based prevention. Young people are killing themselves. One of my wonderful staff members, my chief of staff—she is such a dear friend—comes from a large family of 10 children. One of her brothers is a medical doctor with twins. One of them hanged himself—an 11-year-old boy, dead.

We have to have more science-based information, and we don't have it. Mr. President, 33,000 people are dying each year as a result of self-inflicted injuries.

I note with a degree of seriousness that September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day. I hope we can all acknowledge this is something on which we need to work together. It is not a partisan issue; just ask Gordon Smith. It is not a partisan issue; just ask me. As I have indicated, many people who work in these wonderful buildings in the Capitol have been affected by suicide.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2848, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2848) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Inhofe) amendment No. 4979, in the nature of a substitute.

Inhofe amendment No. 4980 (to Amendment No. 4979), to make a technical correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the bill we are debating, the Water Resources Development Act. I will begin by commending the chairman of the EPW Committee, Senator INHOFE, and the ranking member, Senator BOXER, for their leadership on this legislation.

Sometimes it is important to just look at what these bills are doing. The Water Resources Development Act—WRDA, we call it here—the title says:

To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

One of the things I have come to the floor of the Senate to speak on a number of times is one of the most important things I think we should be doing in the Senate, and that is focusing on our economy. With all due respect to the minority leader with regard to the economy in the United States, things are not going well. Just over the past two quarters, we again had numbers that were dismal by any historical measure in the United States. Last quarter, I think we had 1.5 percent GDP growth, and the quarter before that, we had 0.8 percent GDP growth. As a matter of fact, President Obama will be the first President in U.S. history who never hit 8 percent GDP growth in 1 year—never. No President has had such a dismal regard in terms of growing the economy.

What should we be doing? First of all, we need to focus on the economy. One of the critical things we should be doing in the Congress—one of the things we need to unleash to the private sector is better infrastructure for this country. Again, I commend the chairman of the EPW Committee and the ranking member because they have been leaders on this issue. Last year, we passed the first long-term highway bill in many years with the FAST Act. That is infrastructure for the country. Right now, hopefully, the Senate will pass the WRDA bill.

These aren't perfect pieces of legislation. No piece of legislation ever is. For example, I think both of them could