

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 610

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 610.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 637

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 637.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission:

Mr. THOMPSON, California

RIGHT TO TRY POTENTIALLY LIFESAVING DRUGS

(Mr. BIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, many Americans, including my constituents, fight a terminal illness. Many of them cannot access potentially lifesaving drugs because of the lengthy and bureaucratic Food and Drug Administration's approval process.

Last month Congressman FITZPATRICK and I introduced the Right to Try Act, which is a bill that would provide the option for terminally ill patients to receive drugs that have passed the FDA's basic safety testing but are still working their way through the lengthy government process to receive final approval.

In 2014, my home State of Arizona passed a similar right-to-try law with nearly 80 percent of the vote, thanks to the heroic efforts of my friend, the late Laura Knaperek. She successfully fought to pass right-to-try at the State level even as she was battling a cancer that would ultimately claim her life. I sponsored this bill in memory of Laura and many others who have championed this legislation around the country.

Right-to-try has passed in 33 States, and it needs to be enacted at the Federal level. Our bill gives Americans

that right to try. I am grateful for Congressman FITZPATRICK's partnership on this vital issue. I call upon my colleagues to pass this legislation in the House.

HEALTH CARE UNCERTAINTY IN NEW JERSEY

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say that the Republicans' attack on the poor and vulnerable through this disastrous healthcare bill is a surprise. But, unfortunately, in my home State, Republican leadership has laid out the framework for their very own attack.

Last week, Governor Chris Christie dealt another blow to the welfare of New Jerseyans by seeking to fund his State budget by siphoning money from Horizon, the State's largest healthcare insurer, serving over 900,000 Medicaid members in New Jersey. Horizon's reserve fund exists to protect healthcare consumers in the face of uncertainty. But, Mr. Speaker, New Jerseyans are currently facing tremendous uncertainty due to proposals by Republicans in Congress to roll back Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, the threats are clear. Governor Christie's proposal would destabilize Horizon and raise consumer premiums just when hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans may lose Medicaid coverage or have premium subsidies withdrawn at the hands of reckless Federal lawmakers.

In my district alone, 40,600 New Jerseyans currently covered by the ACA's Medicaid expansion now stand to lose their coverage if eliminated. Both Governor Christie's budget raid and the Republican healthcare proposal are prescriptions for disaster. These plans are not only lazy and careless, but are also unworkable strategies that will only result in chaos across the healthcare industry of New Jersey and this country.

PENN STATE'S THON FUNDRAISER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of Penn State's finest events, THON, a 46-hour dance marathon. THON began in 1977. It is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, and it raises money to fight pediatric cancer. THON ran from February 17 to 19 as dancers stood for 46 hours without sleep at Bryce Jordan Center.

THON is a year-round fundraising and awareness campaign for the fight against childhood cancer, with proceeds going directly to Four Diamonds, which benefits the Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Four Diamonds ensures that families who are battling pediatric

cancer are not faced with any costs, allowing them to fully focus on the needs of their child. THON 2017 raised more than \$10 million, and since its inception, THON has raised more than \$146 million.

This truly is an event like none other. It shows the power of what Penn State students can do and have been doing to cover the treatment costs for pediatric cancer patients as well as support cancer research. Thank you to all the Penn State students who take part in this spectacular event.

FIX HEALTH CARE, DON'T DESTROY IT

(Mr. CRIST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of strengthening the Affordable Care Act. Last Saturday, we held a townhall meeting in my home of St. Petersburg, Florida. Over 550 Pinellas County residents showed up, and the message was overwhelming: Work together, fix health care, don't destroy it, put people above politics.

The Republican bill unveiled this week would drive up healthcare costs, strip away important protections, and leave millions without coverage. It is wrong for senior citizens. It is wrong for women. It is wrong for the poor and the disabled. We are judged by how we treat the least among us.

HONORING ZELL MILLER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the great Georgia Governor and U.S. Senator Zell Miller a happy 85th birthday. He celebrated his milestone on February 24, 2017.

For his undergraduate education, Mr. Miller attended the University of Georgia as well as my alma mater, Young Harris College. He often compared Young Harris to a shoe factory because, as he says, you enter single but you leave as a pair. Fittingly, it is where Mr. Miller met his wife of more than 60 years, Shirley. Also fittingly, it is where I met my wife of 38 years, Amy.

Mr. Miller has dedicated much of his life to serving the public, starting out as the mayor of his small hometown of Young Harris in north Georgia. This outstanding career led him through every level of service, including State senator, Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and United States Senator.

Mr. Miller's dedication to his home State of Georgia and the United States as a whole continues to have lasting effects that are felt to this day. As Governor of Georgia one of Mr. Miller's greatest gifts was the HOPE Scholarship. This fund opens up educational

opportunities for thousands of Georgians every year by providing college tuition assistance to qualified students.

Mr. Miller's legacy is well known in Georgia, but his accomplishments and charisma also earned him the respect of his colleagues across our Nation.

Once again, I want to wish a happy 85th birthday to Zell Miller and thank him for his contributions to Georgia and the United States. We can all learn from the great example of his dedication to the public.

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CONGRATULATING RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rutgers men's basketball team on a tremendous accomplishment.

With their win last night over The Ohio State University, the Scarlet Knights celebrated their first Big Ten Tournament victory since joining the conference in 2014. Their hard work this season has paid off, and they now advance to play Northwestern tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the team, first-year head coach Steve Pikiell, and the entire Rutgers program.

Following their win, Coach Pikiell said that the team learned how to compete this year. Well, last night it certainly showed, and I look forward to watching the Scarlet Knights play tonight and wish them continued success in the tournament.

PAKISTAN IS NOT ON OUR SIDE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of TEXAS. Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise Pakistan is not the friend they portray themselves to be. They are a devious, deceptive, and disloyal ally.

For years they have supported the Taliban by providing them cover, cash, and weapons. However, this Benedict Arnold ally is among the leading recipients of U.S. foreign assistance for the last 14 years.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need to pay Pakistan to betray us, they will do it for free.

The Taliban's headquarters is, you guessed it, in Pakistan. When a U.S. drone attack took out the Taliban's leader in May 2016, he was in Pakistan.

This should be the last rodeo for Pakistan. This is why I have introduced the Pakistan State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act. The bill requires the administration to issue a report containing either a determination

that Pakistan is a state sponsor of terrorism or a justification as to why it is not.

It is time to determine whose side Pakistan is on. And, Mr. Speaker, they are not on our side.

And that is just the way it is.

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE PLAN FAILS AMERICANS

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican healthcare plan would not only fail to improve upon the Affordable Care Act, it would undo the benefits millions of Americans depend on and devastate our economy in the process.

This plan would strip millions of working families of their health care, cut benefits for millions more, and increase premiums for older Americans by 25 percent. It would ravage our economy by destabilizing the healthcare sector and pushing State and local governments to the brink of bankruptcy.

Four Republican Senators have even rejected this bill because of its economically devastating Medicaid cuts.

The Republican plan would force the counties I represent to pay hundreds of millions of dollars more for health care.

This bill would force local governments to raise property taxes or deny health care.

We need healthcare solutions that improve care and strengthen our economy at the same time. We must not settle for this plan, which accomplishes neither.

HARDSHIPS FACED UNDER AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you one of the countless stories my office has received that highlight the hardships faced under the Affordable Care Act, primarily by middle-income families. This one came in on January 17. Joe writes:

"Mr. LaMalfa, I was penalized \$850 on my 2015 tax return for the transgression of not having been enrolled in the Affordable Care Act.

"I simply cannot afford the now \$895-per-month premium, double, to insure my family of three. I have been forced into what's called self-pay for our doctor visits.

"Cancer biopsies, Z-Packs, dental, and eyeglasses all come out of my paycheck . . . it sure would have been nice to have that extra \$850 penalty to pay for all this."

He ended his message stating, simply: "ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced with free market policies

that can be purchased across State lines."

His testimony highlights one of the primary issues with the ACA: fewer choices, increasingly expensive premiums, deductibles that are out of sight that are forcing citizens into paying out of pocket for services they need.

Another one of my constituents told me they were ultimately forced to choose between paying their mortgage and paying their monthly premium. That is not a choice at all, and one that should not have to be made.

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE PLAN WILL HAVE DEVASTATING IMPACT

(Mr. SUOZZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican healthcare plan and its devastating impact. When it comes to the Affordable Care Act, I have always said: mend it, don't end it.

I came to Congress wanting to work together on a bipartisan plan that would build and improve upon the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, the plan the Republicans have offered and that is supported by the President was written in secret, kept under wraps, and is now being rushed through marathon subcommittee sessions so the American people don't have a chance to actually see what is in this bill.

Republicans refuse to wait for the Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan group, to tell us how much their plan will cost and how many people will get thrown off their health care plans. Maybe that is because their plan offers tax breaks to the wealthy while the rest of us get stuck paying the bill.

Reductions proposed in this bill would result in over \$1 billion in cuts for New York State this year. Now the American Association of Retired Persons, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, and a growing list of Republican and Democratic Governors throughout the Nation oppose this plan.

So instead of pushing through a bill that we know will result in rising premiums and throw people off their healthcare, let's come together and find a solution that makes sense for all Americans.

OPPOSING REPEAL AND REPLACE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the repeal and replace bill offered by my Republican colleagues. I have never believed ObamaCare was perfect, but it was a step in the right direction.

We will only move our healthcare policy forward by working together to