

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the repeal and replacement of ObamaCare is about keeping promises and being worthy of the American people's trust.

We, for the third time in American history, have unified Republican control of the government: a Republican in the White House and Republican control of the House of Representatives and of the Senate. In the last five campaigns, one out of every four ads was about health care, so it is our turn to lead.

Here is what we know: ObamaCare today is failing. It is failing to meet the promises that were made that people could keep their doctor or keep their plan. It is failing to be affordable for those who see rising premiums, rising deductibles, no choices, no health care at all, and limited access.

As Republicans leading in this Chamber, we are on a rescue mission to save the American people from this disaster and to replace this law with something that works and gets us away from government-centered health care and moves us to patient-centered health care, doctor-centered health care.

You know, we believe in ownership societies where you ought to be able to own your own healthcare plan, own your own decisions about education and how you choose to prosper.

Today, the Rules Committee is contemplating amendments that should excite conservatives with generational changes that will unlock the potential of this great country.

State flexibility, for the first time, we really see the option for States like mine in Florida to step up and say we don't want the Federal Government involved in health care anymore. We want to take control over those who are vulnerable in our communities, and we want to innovate and come up with solutions that meet those challenges.

Work requirements, hardworking people in my district don't understand why they go to work every day but too often they are paying for entitlements for people who are able-bodied, childless, can work, and choose not to. That is wrong.

We are going to take up, on this floor, legislation that I suspect will have a work requirement for able-bodied, childless adults for those States who choose to implement this bold conservative reform.

We also expect that there will be an end to the disaster of Medicaid expansion. Today in America, one out of every four people is on Medicaid. That is absolutely unsustainable. It means three of us have got to pay for the cost of our own health care and then a substantial portion of the cost of someone else's.

By ending Medicaid expansion for nonexpansion States, we put the country back on a path to prosperity—not government-centered health care, individual patient-centered health care where people can choose the plans that best meet their needs.

If we do this, if we meet this challenge with our historic opportunity to

lead, then the American people will know that we are worthy of their trust. We are keeping our word, and we will repeal and replace health care.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Tom Smiley, Lakewood Baptist Church, Gainesville, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

In the name that is above every name, in the name of the One by whom all things were created and by whom all things created are sustained, in the name of the One who was crucified for the sins of all people, raised on the third day, and who, upon His return, every knee will bow and every tongue confess is Lord, in the name of Jesus, my Savior and my Lord, today, I ask:

Draw near unto thyself the heart of any in this body who still remain far from You.

Give confidence and courage to all who govern from this House, to be unashamed of the Judeo-Christian ethic, which has led this Nation to prominence and prosperity above all other nations.

And Father, remind all, who by faith trust You that Your love wants what is best for us, Your wisdom knows what is best for us, and Your power will accomplish what is best for us.

In Jesus' name and God's people.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JEFFRIES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. TOM SMILEY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Tom Smiley, whose compassion and character have made him a true leader in Gainesville and northeast Georgia.

Dr. Smiley grew up in Gumbranch, Georgia, where he received his call to preach. After graduating from Blue Mountain College in Mississippi, Pastor Tom attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary, where he obtained his doctorate in ministry, with an emphasis on marriage and family ministry.

As senior pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church, Dr. Smiley has led the congregation—including my own family—for over 25 years. The vision for Lakewood is to be a regional church that raises up fully devoted followers of Christ who are trained and equipped to love and reach lost people, locally and globally.

In addition to his work at church, Pastor Tom has established himself as a successful writer, authoring three books: "Runaway Lives," "Angels All Around," and "Uncommon Common Sense."

Dr. Smiley is engaged with the Gainesville community at every level, and our neighbors have enjoyed his contributions as a Little League baseball and basketball coach, as well as the work that he does at the community YMCA branch.

Dr. Smiley is my pastor and friend, and in every aspect of his life, he leads with grace and devotion. I am proud to welcome him here to our Nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE FAILED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare has failed the American people destroying jobs. All across South Carolina, premiums have skyrocketed, small-business jobs have been terminated, and our State is now down to a single insurance provider on the exchange. This is not what families were promised 7 years ago.

With the American Health Care Act, House Republicans have delivered on the commitment to give Americans a healthcare system that increases choice, creates jobs, and puts the patient back in control. This bill protects

those with preexisting conditions, returns power to the States, allows young adults to remain on their parents' insurance until they are 26, and increases consumer choice. This is a critical first step of three to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

I am grateful that the American Health Care Act is supported by the NFIB, the Susan B. Anthony List, Americans for Tax Reform, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Taxpayers Union, the Institute for Liberty, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, and dozens of other advocates promoting creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

TRUMPCARE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are planning to vote tomorrow to pass TrumpCare.

This bill is a great deal for the superrich, it is a great deal for insurance companies, and it is a great deal for drug companies. But it is a bad deal for working men and women across our country.

TrumpCare will raise premiums, increase deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses.

TrumpCare ends coverage for 24 million people.

TrumpCare destroys 2 million jobs.

TrumpCare imposes an age tax on older Americans.

And TrumpCare cuts Medicaid by \$880 billion to give corporations and the wealthiest Americans a \$600 billion tax cut—the single largest transfer of wealth from working people to the rich in history. This is wrong.

The American people do not want this bill. They don't want to pay more for less.

Donald Trump promised that he would be a great champion for the middle class. It only took him 2 months in office to break that promise and sell out to the wealthy and the special interests. Shame on him and shame on anyone who votes to take away health coverage from working men and women to fund a big tax cut for folks who don't need it. The working people of this country deserve better.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT BRINGS MEDICAID ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. PITTINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the American Health Care Act and, specifically, the critically important reforms to Medicaid, in addition to the other great reforms that will bring cost-effective health care to this country.

For 50 years, Medicaid has been a blank check to the States with little accountability and rampant fraud. During my time in the North Carolina Senate, we found as much as 20 percent waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid.

In response, I have worked with SAS, a major technology firm, to develop accountability and oversight. North Carolina is now a leader in Medicaid fraud recovery.

Under the American Health Care Act, Medicaid replaces an open blank check with commonsense per capita or block grant allotments for each State. This incentivizes States to follow North Carolina's lead and clean out the bad actors exploiting eligibility and the providers taking advantage of Medicaid at the expense of America's most vulnerable.

Conservatives have championed these reforms for decades. Now is our opportunity to bring accountability to Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this great reform.

UN-AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT TAKES US BACKWARD

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, let's make this clear. The Un-American Health Care Act doesn't just repeal advances with ObamaCare, it takes us backward to a point worse off than we were before the Affordable Care Act.

It guts Medicaid, and will fail to meet existing needs, hurting vulnerable children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and seniors needing long-term care, hurting them all.

It abandons Planned Parenthood services. Women with nowhere else to turn will lose access to critical services like pelvic exams and pap tests.

I am here today speaking on behalf of single mom Sherry, cancer survivor Marty, star student Kelty, and little Gracie and her devoted grandmother Donna.

We are all one voice saying we cannot afford to make the American healthcare system even worse than it was before ObamaCare. That is the path the un-American Health Care Act will carve. My friends, let's not go down that path. Vote "no."

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE BILL

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, Republicans rushed their pay more for less healthcare bill through committees before CBO even had a chance to score it. And then, once they realized that 24 million people would lose coverage, they made late night additions just 2 days before the House is scheduled to vote.

Americans' health care is too important to be done on an artificial dead-

line. It is too important for people in my district like Rachel. Rachel is a hairdresser in her midthirties, who was finally able to get health coverage for her husband and three children, thanks to the ACA. But under the Republican plan, their coverage will be replaced by tax credits that don't even come close to meeting the healthcare costs for a family of five.

And there are millions just like her struggling to make ends meet. Instead of abandoning people like Rachel to give tax breaks to the wealthiest few, I urge Republicans to do what even Trump promised—provide health insurance for everybody. That starts with rejecting this bill.

PAY MORE AND GET LESS WITH TRUMPCARE

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, under the Republican healthcare plan, TrumpCare, hardworking Americans will pay more and get less. Your premiums will increase. Your copays will increase. Your deductibles will increase. Your out-of-pocket costs will increase. But the quality of your health care will go down.

Tens of millions of Americans under TrumpCare will also lose their entire health coverage. And under the Republican healthcare plan, it will impose a draconian age tax on people between 50 and 64, some of whom will be forced to pay approximately \$14,000 per year.

Trump has said he is going to do health care in three phases. I have finally figured it out. Phase one, disease. Phase two, disaster. Phase three, destruction. Vote "no" against this reckless plan.

HARDWORKING AMERICA NEEDS A TAX BREAK

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow House Republicans will perpetrate a careless financial assault on good, hardworking America in exchange for a massive payoff to greedy insurance executives and their cronies. Yes, this vote is rigged against the good.

If you are 50 to 64 years old, you and your family get clobbered. More doughnut holes, more premiums, and less health care.

UnitedHealthcare, one of America's largest private insurers, is today under investigation for defrauding the Medicare program of billions of dollars. Your bill, in 17 words on page 67, rewards UnitedHealthcare, their executives and cronies, with a massive tax cut. UnitedHealthcare made \$83 billion last year, and their CEO was compensated with \$66 million. They don't need a break. Hardworking America does.