

I know that Betsy is up to the challenge of ensuring our children are prepared to compete and thrive in our ever-changing world.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, for over 6 years, we have watched House Republicans attack the Affordable Care Act. The law may not be perfect, but Republicans can't ignore the fact that the ACA has allowed 30 million Americans to access affordable health care.

Calls and emails have poured into my office from my constituents who are begging me to do everything in my power to protect their health care and to strengthen the ACA. Earlier this week I received an email from Brian in San Bernardino, who shared that his wife didn't have insurance before the ACA. When the law went into effect, she had a physical, whereby doctors discovered she had ovarian cancer. It was caught early and treated, and now she is living healthy in San Bernardino. If she had not obtained health insurance through the ACA, she wouldn't have had a preventative screening, which saved her life.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot strip 30 million people of their health care. We cannot look people in the eyes and say we are doing everything we can to help them if we allow insurance companies to discriminate against them and to cap their coverage. I will not compromise their health care or our future, and neither should you.

IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SECRETARY OF EDUCATION BETSY DEVOS

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nomination of Betsy DeVos, of my home State of Michigan, to be the next Secretary of Education.

She shares our belief that all children should have the opportunity to learn in a world-class environment and that they, along with their parents, should be able to choose the schools that are best for them. In Michigan, she has improved learning opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds all across the State. She knows that local control plays a key role in an educator's ability to tailor lesson plans that best provide the education for our students.

For decades, Betsy DeVos has worked tirelessly on education issues, and she has been a champion for parents and students. As a parent of six children who have attended public schools, I am confident that she will do an outstanding job as our next Secretary of Education.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, this House, the people's House, will vote to take the first step in a blindly ideological crusade to break our entire healthcare system and rip health insurance away from more than 20 million Americans.

Repeal would cripple our Nation's hospitals and create a \$723 million budget shortfall in my congressional district alone, resulting in countless job losses across our great country. Repeal would return everyone to the days of big insurance companies and their denying of needed care due to annual and lifetime limits on coverage. Repeal would mean higher costs for individuals who seek routine preventative care, like mammograms or birth control.

This is not what the people want. People are sick and tired of Republicans playing political games with their health care. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect. Deductibles, out-of-pocket costs, and prescription drug prices are still too high for many working families. People are frustrated when they are faced with narrow networks or surprise medical bills.

Unfortunately, these are not the problems that Republicans are focused on fixing. In fact, the only problem Republicans seem to be trying to solve is that too many people have health insurance. Republicans want to roll back the progress that has been made and create a healthcare system that eliminates the guarantees of affordable coverage, by which families will face even higher deductibles and copays—a concept they euphemistically call “skin in the game,” and those with preexisting conditions, including expectant mothers, would again face a closed door instead of care.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we observed National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and we continue to shine a light on this modern form of slavery. As a part of that effort, I am cosponsoring the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, which is the next step in helping the victims of human trafficking.

The heinous practice of human trafficking exploits young girls and boys. These victims are oftentimes our most vulnerable and are taken advantage of by those with no regard for their well-being. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act will allow victims to petition courts to have their criminal records cleared of nonviolent offenses that

were committed as a direct result of being trapped in human trafficking. It is a very important step, Mr. Speaker, in helping these individuals get the opportunity to return to living fulfilling lives on their own terms and getting the fresh start that they deserve.

No man, woman, girl, or boy should ever be subjected to sex trafficking. We must remain vigilant in our fight against this crime and ensure that the victims receive the support and resources they need because, together, we can stop human trafficking.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the first time as a Member of Congress to discuss an issue that is at the forefront of the American conscience and is one that I care deeply about: protecting and improving the Affordable Care Act.

Today, over 45,000 of my constituents have access to reliable, affordable healthcare coverage thanks to the Affordable Care Act. These are seniors who would otherwise be unable to afford their prescription drugs. These are working families who no longer have to worry about being one illness away from bankruptcy. These are children who have been born with birth defects who would have previously been denied coverage for having a preexisting condition or reached their lifetime limits before they even started school.

What concerns me most is this effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act without putting forth any sort of replacement. This will have real consequences for American families, and it is simply reckless governance. We cannot play politics with 20 million American lives who depend on the Affordable Care Act for access to quality, affordable health care. This is not a game.

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WSAV GENERAL MANAGER RETIRING

(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 recognize Ms. Deb Thompson, who recently retired as general manager of WSAV News Station in Savannah, Georgia.

Ms. Thompson began working with WSAV in 2005. She moved to Savannah from Dallas, Texas, and started her outstanding career bringing news to our local community as a sales manager for the station.

Her dedication and passion for the Savannah community made her a perfect fit for the job, and she quickly moved to general manager of WSAV in 2009. An example of this passion was

showcased when she was arrested in March of 2016, as part of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Lock-Up event to help combat neuromuscular disease. The money that Ms. Thompson raised for bail helped two local children attend an MDA summer camp that gives children with muscle-debilitating diseases the best week of the year.

Ms. Thompson was also instrumental in expanding WSAV's news coverage from 17 hours per week to 30 hours per week and creating a 10 p.m. program reaching a much broader audience.

I am proud to recognize her today for all of her hard work and dedication to southeast Georgia. I wish her the best of luck in the future.

REJECT ATTEMPTS TO REPEAL THE ACA

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, in a bizarre rant yesterday, President-elect Donald Trump said he would be "the greatest jobs producer that God ever created." Mr. Trump might need to rethink that statement, given his top priority is to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans haven't given us any details about an ACA replacement policy at all, we know exactly what will happen if they repeal it: millions of jobs will be lost.

Since the ACA was passed in March 2010, the U.S. economy has added more than 15 million private sector jobs and the unemployment rate has been cut in half. In fact, the longest streak in private sector job growth began the month the ACA was passed. Now, folks on the other side of the aisle want to risk all of that going away by repealing the law.

A recent study has found that repealing the ACA would kill 2.6 million jobs in just 1 year, including 45,000 in my home State of Oregon. Thirty million Americans will lose access to health care, and \$350 billion gets added to our budget deficit.

Mr. Speaker, we can't afford the reckless ACA repeal policy. I urge my colleagues to reject attempts to repeal the law and focus on ways we can fix and improve our healthcare system while creating jobs.

REPEALING ACA WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT IS DANGEROUS

(Ms. BARRAGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise because I offered an amendment to the budget resolution bill that is going to be up for a vote tomorrow. The amendment that I offered was a statement of policy that repealing the Affordable Care Act without a replace-

ment is dangerous and irresponsible. This is a bipartisan sentiment.

Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, a Republican from Alaska, stated: "I have great concerns that we inject a level of great uncertainty into an already uncertain environment if we don't give people a clear indication as to what will come once we repeal."

I don't support a repeal, but people in my district cannot afford to go without health care in the 44th Congressional District.

I urge my colleagues to think about this, to think and to listen to their Republican colleagues. We need to see a replacement plan.

FIVE IMPACTS OF THE ACA REPEAL

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, the immoral effort to take away health care from millions of working families across the country has begun.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, thousands of families in my home State of Washington have been able to get quality health care, and now the Republican majority is set to strip away that healthcare coverage from those struggling to make ends meet.

If they succeed, three quarters of a million Washingtonians will lose their health care; 55,000 young people in our State will be kicked off their parents' healthcare plans; being a woman, once again, becomes a preexisting condition where women would again have to pay out of pocket for basic, preventive screenings and birth control; nearly 4 million Washingtonians, covered by their employers, would see their costs increase and coverage decline; and 50,000 Washingtonians who gained health care through Medicaid expansion will lose it.

Mr. Speaker, health care is a fundamental right and not a privilege. Instead of rolling back the progress we have made, we should be strengthening and expanding health care to cover all who live in our Nation.

DREAMER INFORMATION PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in El Paso, Texas, hundreds of my fellow citizens will come out to San Jacinto Plaza to join us in celebrating, supporting, and defending those DREAMers who, across this country, are 700,000 strong, who were brought here at a young age are now contributing in, living in our communities, going to school, serving in the military, and helping to create jobs and grow our economy.

I am also introducing tomorrow the DREAMer Information Protection Act

to protect those DREAMers who voluntarily came forward out of the shadows to give their personal information, their names, telephone numbers, and addresses to the Federal Government. I want to protect them and make sure that same government doesn't turn around and use that information to deport them, as the incoming administration has promised to end the executive DACA action and potentially deport those DREAMers on who this country is depending, not just for our economic success but our growth and success as a country that has always gained from immigrants who contribute to the American way of life.

SUPPORTING BETSY DEVOS' NOMINATION

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a true leader and friend, Betsy DeVos, for the nomination of Secretary of Education.

By far and away, Betsy DeVos is the ideal candidate to guide our Nation's education policies. For three decades, she has been focused on making sure all of our Nation's children have access to quality education, particularly for the disenfranchised and those in real need.

The Associated Press recently ran a piece highlighting West Michigan Aviation Academy and the tremendous difference the school is making in the lives of the children in Michigan. Betsy DeVos had her hand in that process, as she has in so many of the other schools across western Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, being from Michigan myself, I have seen firsthand what Betsy DeVos has done for education in Michigan. She understands the important role of public schools in the K-12 system, but also believes that competition, school choice, and parental control will help drive success in all schools to ensure that all children are receiving the best possible education, no matter their circumstances.

I hope to work with my friends on the other side of the Capitol. And I hope, during this time before the Senate committee considers Ms. DeVos' nomination, that the rest of the Nation will hear of the great things that Betsy DeVos has done and see how qualified she is for this job.

MICHIGANDERS CONCERNED OVER REPEAL OF ACA

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, I held a roundtable discussion in my district with healthcare providers, hospitals, doctors, nurses, clinics, labor leaders, and working families