

obtain these tapes undeterred, and then he would examine them to see what wrongdoing, if any, has occurred.

The reasons for a special prosecutor are compelling. A special prosecutor is not subject to day-to-day supervision by the Attorney General or anyone else at the Justice Department. He or she would have greater latitude in whom they can subpoena, which questions to ask, and how to conduct the investigation. He or she would have purview to investigate, not only the subject but also anyone who attempts to interfere with the investigation. There is built-in congressional oversight, and Congress is notified whenever a special prosecutor is appointed, removed, or finished with the investigation. He or she can only be removed for cause, not to quash an investigation.

With the events of the past week—and given that we have different stories coming out of this administration from different people—the need to have someone who is independent and far away from any of the actors, to get to the bottom of this, is so important. Firing the FBI Director is extremely rare and deeply troubling. We need the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Third, we in the Congress need to hear testimony from Director Comey, as well as be briefed by Attorney General Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein. I understand that Director Comey declined an invitation to testify tomorrow, but I have no reason to believe he won't be willing to come before the Senate in the future. I hope that he will sooner rather than later and that those appearances are in a public setting. This week, on Thursday, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein will brief the full Senate on the events of the last week. Again, I thank the majority leader for joining me in that request. Again, I hope we can make as much of that information public as possible. The American people deserve to know the truth just as much, if not more, than the Senate does.

My caucus still believes that Attorney General Sessions must be made available to the Senate in a similar capacity, given his reported role in firing Director Comey and in helping select his replacement. Considering his recusal from the Russia investigation, his close involvement in these events warrants the Senate's questioning as well. To repeat, we need the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The Russian meddling is so serious, and it is no place for partisan fighting.

Frankly, we need our Republican colleagues to help to get to the bottom of what happened in the 2016 elections and to hold this or any administration accountable when they don't tell the truth. If only one party is doing the talking, the issue will seem too partisan to the American people. A subject as important as this one—the tampering of our elections by a foreign power, a matter the Founders fretted

about at the dawning of the Republic—shouldn't be colored by partisan politics.

It is time to put country before party. We need our Republican friends to help us call upon the White House to get an independent investigation on Russia. We need them to speak out when the White House misleads the public. No less than the integrity of our system of government and the rule of law is at stake.

TRUMP CARE

Mr. President, a word on healthcare. As the Senate Republican caucus debates what to do on healthcare, they should take a hard look at the consequences of the House Republican bill on individual Americans. Last week, Senate Democrats met with four Americans who shared their stories and explained how they would be hurt by TrumpCare. Because of the furor over Director Comey's firing, their voices may have been drowned out. So I wanted to repeat a few of their stories.

We heard from Cindi Johnson from Bloomington, IN, whose daughter was born with Down syndrome, a pre-existing condition. Ms. Johnson was approaching the lifetime coverage limit on her plan when healthcare reform was passed, which eliminated the limit. That policy change, as well as Medicaid, helped Ms. Johnson and her family climb out from under a mountain of medical debt and get the care they needed for their daughter. Every parent so much wants to help a child who is sick. That might be taken away from the Cindi Johnsons of the world if the House bill is passed. Under TrumpCare, States are no longer required to prohibit lifetime limits, and Medicaid is cut by \$880 billion. Let's think of the Ms. JOHNSONS and their daughters and sons.

We also heard from Michael Dunkley from Alexandria, VA. Mr. Dunkley is a 64-year-old fulltime caregiver for his wife, who has advanced MS. In 2013, shortly after being laid off, Mr. Dunkley was diagnosed with an aggressive stage IV non-Hodgkin lymphoma, but his insurance coverage through COBRA was set to expire at the end of the year. Mr. Dunkley was able to sign up for insurance on Virginia's marketplace that provided coverage despite his preexisting condition. Under TrumpCare, Mr. Dunkley could be charged five times or more by the insurance companies because he is older. He could also be priced out of insurance because of his preexisting condition.

President Trump and the Republicans promised better and cheaper healthcare for everyone, but these Americans and many more like them—perhaps millions, pretty certainly millions—would be devastated by TrumpCare. It is another colossal promise to folks like Mr. Dunkley, Ms. Johnson, and her daughter.

So my Republican friends in the Senate, I hope you will listen to these stories and the stories of your constitu-

ents saying so many of the same things. To take away healthcare from the Johnsons and the Dunkleys to give a tax break to the very wealthiest of Americans—hundreds of thousands of dollars for people who make tens of millions of dollars—no American would be for that, but that is what is in the bill in the House, and that is where the Republican Senate bill, despite all the talk back and forth, is aiming to go.

My Republican friends here in the Senate, please, listen to these stories. Drop repeal. Drop TrumpCare. Work with Democrats on ways to improve our healthcare system and bring costs down. We can move forward together, or Republicans can move backward on their own.

WORLDWIDE CYBER ATTACK

Lastly, Mr. President, I want to make a note about the worldwide cyber attack. So far, according to the New York Times, the attack has afflicted at least 200,000 computers in more than 150 countries. It is a sobering reminder that cyber attacks are one of the century's greatest challenges. They continue to get larger in scale, broader in scope, and more malicious in intent. It is time we stopped talking about the threat of cyber attacks and actually started doing something about it.

A few years ago, the Senate tried to pass a bill to protect our critical infrastructure from cyber attacks, but some of our friends on the other side of the aisle blocked it to defend a business community that didn't want to share information necessary to fight these challenges. I hope this global cyber attack serves as a wakeup call and renews bipartisan interest in protecting the United States, the country we love, and in protecting our hospitals, our universities, our businesses, our intellectual property, our credit files, election systems, and critical infrastructures from cyber attacks.

I yield the floor for my friend from Iowa.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

REPEALING AND REPLACING OBAMACARE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, let me assure the Senator from New York that I am willing to listen to his stories about how people might be affected by the health care debate that is going on in the Congress right now if he will listen to some of the stories I have to tell. By the middle of June, people in 94 of the 99 counties in Iowa may not be able to buy insurance through the Obamacare exchanges.

Senator SCHUMER talked about the tough consequences of the House bill on healthcare. I am coming to the Senate floor today to talk about the tough consequences of Obamacare.

I rise today to speak some more about the Affordable Care Act. The law is collapsing before our eyes. After 7 years of ObamaCare, it continues to overreach, overpromise, and overstay its welcome for the American people. I want to tell you the history about a bridge that relates very much to what is happening to ObamaCare today.

Before I dive into the details of how ObamaCare is denying people in the State of Iowa the ability to get health insurance, I want to share a story about a bridge in the State of Washington.

This bridge is depicted right here. This is the collapse of that bridge. The bridge is called Tacoma Narrows Bridge. It was built in 1940. It was the world's third largest suspension bridge. It was considered a state-of-the-art masterpiece of 20th-century engineering, but the bridge was set to fail from the very beginning.

On July 1, 1940, the \$6 million bridge opened to traffic. Just 5 months later, on November 7, 1940, the bridge collapsed. What caused the massive steel and concrete structure to twist, turn, and drop nearly 200 feet into Puget Sound? Importantly, there was a key foreshadowing clue. The bridge was nicknamed "Galloping Gertie" for its dancing, swaying bridge deck. On most days, it resembled a roller coaster rolling in the wind. But on the morning of November 7, Gertie's dance became twisted in a howling 40-mile-an-hour wind. Dramatic footage shown here shows tons of concrete and steel cables snapping like fishing lines before its collapse. Gertie essentially self-destructed due to design flaws that created sheer havoc in those high winds.

Like ObamaCare, the Tacoma Narrows Bridge wasn't built to last, and like Galloping Gertie, ObamaCare is on a self-destruction course with destiny. Galloping Gertie collapsed by a flawed design that was unable to withstand high winds, and every day that goes by without a bipartisan solution to fix the flaws, ObamaCare is moving the American people closer to a calamity.

Sooner rather than later, ObamaCare will become its own bridge to nowhere, with no insurance plans on the exchanges. Millions of Americans will be left twisting high and dry. The warning signs can no longer be ignored. First, many health insurers are bailing. The individual market is near collapse.

Just last week, another insurance company, Aetna, announced it will quit the remaining two States it planned to sell plans in under ObamaCare. That means in 2018, Aetna will sell zero plans on the individual market exchanges. Just a year ago, in 2016, Aetna participated in the individual markets in 778 counties across the country. In 2017, that number fell to 242. In 2018, that number will be zero.

We ought to repeat this story because everybody is talking about what the House health care bill might do to people's health insurance and their healthcare. The fact is that people can't buy health insurance, or if they buy it, the deductibles are so high they can't afford it. That is the story we ought to be telling at least with equal weight with the stories given by people who are talking about not wanting to do anything with healthcare.

My home State has been hit particularly hard by insurers pulling out of

the individual market. In 2016, UnitedHealth Group announced it would leave Iowa the following year. Last month, Aetna and Wellmark announced they would be pulling out of the individual market in Iowa. This leaves 94 of our 99 counties in Iowa with one choice for health insurance on the individual market.

A constituent wrote to me following the news of their departure.

My son recently turned 26 years old and is ineligible to remain on my insurance; therefore, he signed up for his own policy through Wellmark. My son farms with my husband, so while my husband has coverage through me, my son may soon be facing the fact that he will not be able to buy health insurance. My son, a true "beginning farmer," will be forced to leave our farming operation and seek employment solely for the purpose of health care coverage.

If Congress doesn't act, the individual market may come crashing down, just like the Tacoma Narrows bridge. We simply can't ignore another warning sign. Healthier, younger people are choosing the off-ramp. The toll to join ObamaCare is turning out to be unaffordable for them. ObamaCare is unsustainable.

Remarkably, instead of joining us to fix this broken bridge, the other side wants to leave Americans twisting in the wind. In my home State, 70,000 Iowans are enrolled in the individual exchanges, and the last carrier left, Medica, is on the fence about its plans for 2018. That is why I told Senator SCHUMER to listen to our stories. The people in 94 of Iowa's 99 counties may not even be able to buy insurance on the exchange.

The day has come. It is time to cross the bridge. It is time to repeal and replace ObamaCare before it finishes its collapse.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to law enforcement officers from Arkansas and all across the country who are called to serve and to protect. I am grateful for their dedication and commitment because it takes a very special person to put his life on the line every day to protect our communities.

Arkansans are proud of the law enforcement history in our State. In my hometown of Fort Smith, AR, the U.S. Marshals Service has a deep-rooted history that has helped shape our Nation's westward expansion. Today, many people in the area find their family roots traced back to a U.S. Marshal. As home to the future U.S. Marshals Museum, the community and the State have rallied around this proud heritage. The tradition of courageous public service is carried on today by the men and women who keep communities across the country safe 24 hours a day.

This week, members from law enforcement agencies from around the Nation will join together in Washington to honor their fallen brothers

and sisters who have died in the line of duty. May 15 marks Peace Officers Memorial Day, and this week is recognized as National Police Week. We take this opportunity to honor the men and women who have died in the line of duty by adding their names to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

This year, nearly 400 names will be added to the memorial, including these Arkansans: Robert Barker, a patrolman for the McCrory Police Department, who died while serving the people of Woodruff County on September 15, 2016; Corporal Bill Cooper, of the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office, who gave his life in the line of duty on August 10, 2016; and Corrections Officer Lisa Mauldin, who died in service to the community on December 18, 2016.

These Arkansans represent the selfless sacrifice that our law enforcement personnel embody. It is the truest testament to the life that they chose—to serve their communities.

I am sad to say that the name of another Arkansas law enforcement officer will be carved into the memorial. Yell County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Mainhart was killed in the line of duty last week. He was a veteran officer with more than 20 years of serving and protecting Arkansas communities. I offer my condolences and my gratitude to his family and friends and the law enforcement community as they cope with this unspeakable tragedy.

Our law enforcement officers are true heroes. We recognize, not only during this week but all year long, the devotion of the 900,000 law enforcement officers whose service each and every day makes our communities safer.

I was proud to recognize the service and sacrifice of these first responders and show my support for their commitment to our safety during a tour of Arkansas last year that we called Every Second Counts. First responders invest so much of their lives in public service that one must take the opportunity to commend them for their tireless efforts and willingness to serve in a crisis at a moment's notice.

The role of law enforcement is changing. These men and women perform a variety of roles from responding to emergencies to maintaining public safety and promoting safety services and programs. In Arkansas, we are blessed to have the Criminal Justice Institute, which is a part of the University of Arkansas System. It is a resource to police departments and sheriffs' offices that provides them with updated training and information as they adapt to provide more services to their communities.

As a member of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, I am deeply committed to supporting the Criminal Justice Institute and advocating for the policies and resources that law enforcement agencies need to successfully carry out their missions, as well as honoring those lives that are tragically cut short while in the line of duty.