

in calling for a special prosecutor. We need someone above politics and above the controversy whom we can trust to really pursue the facts and the evidence, wherever it may lead, to determine what we can do to protect America from another Russian attack in our next election and to hold Russia accountable for what we have been through. It is time to do this on a bipartisan basis. America is waiting.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). If no one seeks recognition, time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Louisiana.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, it is fair to say that Americans are sick of partisanship when it comes to issues of greatest concern. They are asking, if you will, that we in the Senate put party behind us—behind the needs of the people. This is especially true when we are speaking of those issues of greatest importance, and I would argue that the replacement of the Affordable Care Act is one of those issues of greatest importance.

Whatever the excuse, no Senator of either party should sit on the sidelines. This is such an important issue that every Senator, whatever her or his personal views, should be engaged.

We know President Trump's principles, if you will. He laid them out time and again on the campaign trail. He wants to maintain coverage, lower premiums, care for those with pre-existing conditions, and eliminate the ObamaCare mandates upon individuals and businesses.

At his inauguration speech, he spoke of the forgotten man and of the forgotten woman. In fact, we can see that just before his inauguration, he emphasized that with what he said during the campaign:

We're going to have insurance for everyone. There's a philosophy in some circles that if you can't pay for it, you don't get it. That is not going to happen to us.

He also emphasized the quality of the care, saying that people covered under the law that he would propose to replace can expect to have great healthcare. "It will be in a much simplified form. Much less expensive, much better," he said to the Washington Post just before he was sworn in. These are his principles.

When he was sworn in and gave his inaugural address, speaking of the forgotten man and the forgotten woman, I cannot help but think that he was influenced as he went through counties seeing folks with terrible tales of their child dying from opioid addiction or their spouse unable to afford insurance under ObamaCare.

I will point out that there is a huge dimension to this that we sometimes forget, but we should not. Senator JERRY MORAN from Kansas made the point that healthcare is like no other issue. It is an issue which touches us most personally. I think President

Trump saw that on the campaign trail. He saw the parent of an adult child with mental illness, and she could not get a psychiatric bed for her child. We know the fate of that child if he does not have the care he needs. He will end up either in a homeless shelter, a jail cell, or the morgue. That is the human dimension to this, and that is why we need to help President Trump fulfill his pledge.

Voters understand what we are speaking of; they understand the importance of it. But let me speak just a little bit more to the politics of this because we cannot separate what we do here in Washington, DC, from politics.

There are researchers from Princeton who recently published a report. If you look at White males and females between 18 and 54 who lack a college education, their life span is decreasing. Now, for Hispanics, African Americans, and other minorities, it is improving, but for this group, it is decreasing.

I have seen data which shows that in the population centers of the United States in which this phenomenon is being most seen—these Whites from age 18 to 54, noncollege educated, their life span is decreasing—the counties in which this effect is most seen were most likely to vote for Donald Trump. Think about the politics of this. The politics are that a group of folks who understand that their life is materially and physically declining, with higher rates of suicide, addiction, liver disease, and other chronic illness, ending in premature death, voted significantly more for the President who swore that he would remember them, who spoke of the forgotten man and the forgotten woman. His pledge to them was a lifeline. Their vote for him was a cry for help.

This is not just a human dimension; there is a political dimension leading to a policy necessity.

Let's stop for a second. There is a key issue of cost. We understand that the Affordable Care Act was too expensive. We can save money. But let's not fool ourselves; it is still going to cost. We can save the \$150 billion or so that the House suggested we have to save. We know the rules the Senate has to address to save at least that much money. On the other hand, we know that Congress has mandated people can get care; therefore, if Congress mandates that folks get care, then Congress should help provide the means by which to pay for it.

There are some who think, oh, my gosh, Congress does not need to provide for the money for care, and everything will be good. I am a physician. I have been in the emergency room at 2 in the morning, and at 2 in the morning, when those emergency room doors are open, whoever comes in is treated. She may have heart failure, he may have a drug overdose, they might be a schizophrenic, or they might be somebody vomiting blood. Each one of them receives all the care that he or she needs to stabilize their emergency condition.

And if they have to be hospitalized—think of a car wreck with multiple traumas—and they are in the hospital for 4 months, they still get that care because Congress mandates that. But, if Congress does not provide the means to pay for it, the cost of that care is shifted not to government; the cost of that care is shifted to the privately insured. All of those getting their insurance through their employer begin to pay higher premiums—much higher premiums. Somebody pays. And if we do not fulfill our obligation, after mandating that those patients get cared for—we, being Congress—then society pays, and society is the person struggling to make ends meet and now finds out from her employer that her premium has increased 20, 30, sometimes 50 percent—all because of the cost-shifting that occurs.

It is not just the group market. Under ObamaCare, we can see that in the individual market, premiums have skyrocketed. It is not that the Affordable Care Act is working so well. Last week I communicated with someone who lives in San Francisco, and she and her young family are paying \$20,000 a year for a premium, \$6,000 deductibles; none of them is sick, none of them will meet their deductibles, but living in a very expensive city, having to struggle to pay their mortgage, groceries, and transportation, now they have to come up with \$20,000 to pay for their healthcare. That is all because of the Affordable Care Act.

Then I spoke with a person in Washington, DC, and someone in Washington DC—that person who is a consultant on insurance issues, knows insurance backward and forward, says that for his family, the premium is \$24,000 a year, with a \$13,000 family deductible. The insurance expert says: I will be out \$37,000 in a single year before my insurance kicks in. Families cannot afford that.

I will finish up lastly with a story from Louisiana. Folks never believe this because it seems too crazy, but I put it on my Facebook page. There is a couple back home, 60 and 61. They were quoted a premium of \$39,000 for a premium of one year, with a deductible on top of that—\$39,000. We can see that in the individual market, the Affordable Care Act is not working, it is becoming the un-Affordable Care Act. We have to address this.

But let me say, we have to address it whether we are a Democrat or a Republican. We must respond to the cries for help coming from those folks suffering from addiction, mental illness, heart failure, or any other chronic disease for which they do not have coverage, but also to the cries for help from middle-class families who cannot afford these premiums, and if they don't sacrifice something in the budget to pay for it, under the Affordable Care Act, they will be fined.

Let's return to the political side. The political side is that I have voters back home asking why Republican Senators

are not helping a Republican President fulfill his pledge—a pledge to all voters—but one that certain Republican voters specifically took to heart; that is, to fulfill his pledge of caring for those with preexisting conditions, continuing coverage, lowering premiums, and eliminating mandates.

If you are a Democratic Senator, the forgotten woman and the forgotten man is in your State too. I can promise you, even if you are not a Republican but you are a Democrat, you have an opioid crisis in your State. So if we are now looking at addressing Medicaid expansion or the affordability of the individual market, and you are a Democratic Senator and you decide to sit on the sideline—if you are a voter in that State, you should be asking why.

Let's face it. Speaking of my Democratic colleagues, many of you do not like President Trump. Some of you hate President Trump. Some of you like him, but you have to pretend that you hate him. Even though this is President Trump's pledge, this is not about President Trump. This about the voters—the patients, the people in our States who either cannot afford their insurance or who have an addiction or some mental illness or some other critical mental healthcare need that, if this ObamaCare replacement is not done well, will leave them far worse off.

I have heard some of the excuses from my Democratic colleagues as to why they cannot participate. They say: Oh, we are using the word “repeal” or, oh, we are not going through a normal committee process—oh, this, or oh, that. I concede it all. Who cares? If you are a voter right now, and your child is addicted to opioids, do you really care that there is a semantic issue regarding whether or not we are saying “repeal” or “repair”? Do you really care that after 8 years of hearings, we don't have a few more hearings? Do you even understand the difference between reconciliation versus normal process? I would say no, because the principal thing that concerns you is that your child is desperate for help and you are not sure that the help will continue.

So I say to my Democratic colleagues: Whatever the excuse, ignore the excuse, and please engage.

Let me finish where I started. I think the average American right now wants every Senator, whether Republican or Democrat, to help President Trump fulfill his pledge to maintain coverage, lower premiums, and care for those with preexisting conditions, without mandates. Every Senator should listen to the American people as they ask us to put patients over party, to put the American people over partisanship.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during quorum calls until 12:30 p.m. today be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues on the floor to talk about Police Week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, during this week, all across the country, people are honoring the men and women who serve as law enforcement officials. Clearly, they deserve and receive recognition every day for what they do, but this is an incredibly difficult job.

Last night, I was with some of our officers from Missouri and with family members, and I said: A lot of times, it is easier for you to walk out the door than it is for your family to see you walk out the door, not knowing what you are going to face every day.

When Senator COONS and I came to the Senate 7 years ago, we created and cochaired the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus. It is a privilege to be part of that and also to speak today on behalf of those who serve us.

This is a week in which we take a moment to recognize the law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Today, I want to pay tribute to three Missouri law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty this past year. Master Sergeant Carl T. Cosper of the Barry County Sheriff's Office was one of those, as were Officer Blake Curtis Snyder of the St. Louis County Police Department and Deputy Sheriff Paul Allen Clark of the St. Francois County Sheriff's Office.

Just last month, Master Sergeant Cosper was killed in a vehicle collision while responding to a domestic disturbance call. He had served the Barry County Sheriff's Office for 10 years before that fatal accident.

In October of 2016, Officer Blake Snyder was shot and killed while responding to a disturbance. He had served the St. Louis County Police Department for 4 years. He is survived by his wife and their 2-year-old son. I had a chance last night to visit with his wife again. Elizabeth and her brother Justin, also a police officer in St. Louis County, were here earlier this year to talk about police and families and what we need to do to really express our understanding of what those families go through, their strength and their reliance, both humbling and inspiring, and I am sure they are passing along those very values to Blake's 2-year-old son.

In July of 2016, Deputy Sheriff Paul Clark died from complications related to injuries he sustained in October of 2015 when he was intentionally struck by a stolen vehicle near Desloge, MO.

Deputy Clark had served the St. Francois County Sheriff's Department for 13 years and had previously served with the Park Hills Police Department for 5 years. He is survived by his wife, two children, and by their grandchildren.

All of these individuals are heroes, and our prayers remain with their families.

Let me now turn to Senator COONS. As I said earlier, he and I founded the Law Enforcement Caucus when we came to the Senate. We try on a regular basis to have opportunities to talk about policing practices, family challenges, and mental health issues that police deal with every day. I turn to Senator COONS for some comments.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from the State of Missouri. Working with Senator BLUNT, my cochair of the Law Enforcement Caucus, has been a terrific experience. We have had the opportunity over several years and several Congresses now for more than a dozen conversations, where we invite law enforcement leaders from around the country to talk about partnership between Federal, State, and local law enforcement, intelligence sharing, equipment issues, policy and operational issues to allow us to provide needed support for the men and women of law enforcement.

It is my honor to join with several of my colleagues today to recognize the men and women of law enforcement as part of National Police Week. Together, we offer our gratitude and our support to the men and women of law enforcement and their families, who together support our communities.

It is only May, and yet my home State of Delaware has already been reminded of the tremendous risks and great sacrifices made by law enforcement officers and their families.

In February of this year, Lieutenant Steven Floyd of the Delaware Department of Correction was killed on the job in a prison riot in Smyrna, the Delaware correctional center. He was a 16-year veteran of the department and left behind his wife of 28 years, Saundra; his children, Candyss, Steven, Jr., and Chyvante; and two grandsons.

Just last month, Corporal Stephen Ballard of the Delaware State Police was senselessly gunned down while investigating a suspicious vehicle. Corporal Ballard had served with the Delaware State Police for 8½ years and left behind his wife Louise and his daughter Abigail.

Delawareans are still grieving for the loss of both of these brave men in the line of duty.

As we recognize the entire law enforcement community from across our country during National Police Week, we should honor their sacrifice by serving them as well as they serve us. This week and every week, we must do everything we can to honor our obligations to fallen heroes and their families.

In the wake of these losses in Delaware, I am committed to continuing to