

country over a \$250,000 a year tax break—how does that fix the problem for my ranchers? How does that fix the problem for my farm families? You know the honest answer: It doesn't.

I need to understand how taking billions of dollars out of the Medicaid system, driving sicker, older people who tend to be in the Medicaid population onto the exchanges into the individual marketplace—how does that help that farm family we talk about almost every week on the floor of the Senate, that farm family, that individual who is paying excess premiums? It does nothing for them.

This is all some smoke-and-mirrors deal. What we have done today—almost 15 of us have come to the floor, and what we are saying is: Let's fix the problems. We can all acknowledge that we have a healthcare system where really sick people have a hard time finding affordability. When you put really sick people into an insurance pool, it drives up the cost for everyone. How do we manage that? The insurance industry tells me the average time on the individual exchange is 10 months. How do you take someone with five chronic conditions and manage them in a 10-month plan? You know what, you don't. So they hop from plan to plan, costing more and more.

If you want to reduce costs, you have to figure out how we can better treat the sickest among us. Until we do that, we will not achieve the common goal, which is reducing and bending the costs of healthcare in this country. We cannot achieve that goal. When all we are doing is saying: No, we don't want to pay, we are going to make the States pay or we are going to make people on the individual exchange pay or we are going to make people do what they have done before, which is not have coverage and put them into uncompensated care, that will not solve the problem.

We have some great examples here for the immediate concern that we have about the premiums that are going to be expressed. In some ways, this reflects concerns about the increased costs of healthcare and what is happening in that individual market, but it is being driven by the failure to fulfill the statutory obligation—reinsurance, cost sharing.

I do have to point out that I found it interesting that the objection to Senator SHAHEEN's bill was that, oh, we haven't had time to take a look at it, haven't had time to even considering this cost-sharing issue. Really?

This is the last page of the Republican bill, page 145, stating in section 208, "Funding for Cost-Sharing Payments." I will give you, it is a different schedule, different formula in the Shaheen bill, but this is not a new concept. If we wanted today to give the insurance industry the certainty they needed that would make sure that the premium increases reflected not uncertainty but reflected actual costs, we would do this: We would take up

JEANNE's bill. The very bill that the Republicans have advanced says, "There is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums that may be necessary for payments for cost-sharing reductions authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (including adjustments to any prior obligations)."

The same provision was in the House bill. How can it be objectionable to have a debate about a provision that has been advanced in both Republican bills? How can that be objectionable when so much is riding on that, when the healthcare and availability of insurance to our families is riding on making sure we at least have some kind of stopgap measures in the exchanges that will guarantee a stability that will make insurance available.

If we don't know what is going to happen with those counties—we know we have huge counties that don't even have uninsured in them. Senator McCASKILL offered an opportunity. Guess what. How about they get their insurance where our staff get our insurance or some among us get our insurance? That is objected to because it is some kind of Washington solution.

What is ironic about that is that provision that made Senate staff in our home States get their health insurance on the DC exchange came from Senator GRASSLEY during the debate on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, not a Democratic idea. It was a Republican idea and certainly something that bears at least a discussion, certainly something that ought to be talked about here.

Let's not pretend there has been an outreach to people on the Democratic side. Today the Democratic leader offered to go to Blair House, offered to bring people together at Blair House, have a sitdown on healthcare, offered to go to the Senate—the Old Senate Chamber, no cameras, let's talk about healthcare. What we get is: You are not serious.

I want you to know I am dead serious about sitting down and trying to fashion a healthcare plan that actually fixes the problems we have right now in affordability of health insurance.

When someone says, well, you have to accept tax breaks as part of that for the richest Americans, think about this: 400 Americans will get a tax break under the Republican bill—400. Just 400 Americans will get a tax break under the Republican bill, equal to what it would cost for Medicaid expansion in four States.

Make no mistake, this is not healthcare reform we are talking about. That bill is not healthcare reform. It is entitlement reform in Medicaid, shifting costs to States and patients. It is tax reform, making sure the wealthiest among us get a tax break.

If we want to talk about healthcare reform, if we want to talk about fixing

the ACA, let's not throw out what is working. Let's make sure we are fixing and addressing the problems that we here express every day that come in our mail and that we know we have to address in order to make the system fair; that is, younger, healthier people need a break. They need to find an affordable product.

How are we going to do that? We have seen ideas here today, ideas that could take care of—even if we just made them temporary, even if we said this is only going to be there until 2019, we could stabilize all of this today and begin that today, but yet it is objected to.

I think the message we want to send is we stand ready to fix the healthcare system. We stand ready to work with the other side of the aisle. We stand ready to address the concerns we hear from our constituents about the healthcare system.

If we really want to respond to the concerns the American public has about the U.S. Congress, we better start working together. We better start finding a path forward to solve problems, real problems, not pretend problems but real problems in this country. That way we will, in fact, enrich and enhance our democracy. Until we do that, we continue to struggle to get credibility with the American public, and that is not, ladies and gentlemen and Members of the Senate, a formula for success for our democracy.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 116, David Nye to be United States district judge for the District of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Deb Fischer, Steve Daines, Luther Strange, Bob Corker, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, Tim Scott, Johnny Isakson, Richard C. Shelby, Michael B. Enzi, Richard Burr, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Todd Young.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as we prepare to celebrate our Independence Day, one of the most pivotal moments in the history of our Nation, I rise today to remember one group of Revolutionary War patriots who are too often overlooked. I am speaking of the African-American soldiers who served in the American Revolution. In particular, I would like to recognize the service of men who fought for our independence and who would later become Kentuckians.

In the 1770s and 1780s, African Americans throughout the young Nation joined the Revolutionary War effort. Like so many other patriots, they volunteered to fight for American independence. Many fought under the command of some of the most notable Revolutionary War heroes, including General George Washington.

I would like to focus on 11 soldiers who, after enduring the pains of war and traveling across much of the new Nation, decided to make a new home for themselves in the area that would later join the Union as the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I would like to tell the stories of a few of these Kentuckians. I believe it is important to remember their service in the war.

Daniel Goff joined the Army in Chesterfield County, VA, in 1777. During his service, Goff marched from Virginia to New Jersey, where he fought in the Battle of Monmouth. He camped at

Valley Forge under the command of General Washington and earned his discharge after 3 years in the Army.

In the years after the war, Goff chose to make a home in Boone County, KY. He worked for General James Taylor V, an American banker who was a quartermaster general during the Revolution. Taylor was a founder of Newport, KY, and he took a special interest in Goff. The two men knew each other for over 40 years and developed a close bond.

John Sidebottom, of Prince William County, VA, served for 1 year. In the course of his service, Sidebottom fought in the Battle of Trenton in December 1776, an historic battle in which General Washington led the crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night to launch a surprise attack against a Hessian garrison.

Sidebottom settled in Clark County, KY. A man who knew him stated that during the Trenton battle, Sidebottom was one of the men who carried a wounded soldier from the battlefield to safety. That soldier was James Monroe, the future President of the United States, who survived the battle, in part, because of Sidebottom's actions.

George Burk enlisted in the Army in Shenandoah County, VA, in 1779. He served for 2 years, traveling around the region in several campaigns. During his time in the Army, he was tasked with guarding British prisoners at Albemarle Barracks and repelling the British and Native American attacks. Burk served under the command of General George Rogers Clark, who founded the city of Louisville, KY. At the end of his service, Burk was discharged in Louisville, and he spent the rest of his life in the area.

I would like to recognize the service and sacrifice of these Kentuckians in the cause of American independence. We owe a large debt to all of our Nation's veterans, and I am glad that we can remember these 11 patriots today.

REMEMBERING ALEX VILLAMAYOR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to extend my deepest condolences to the family of Alex Villamayor, whose life was cut short 2 years ago in Paraguay. Alex was a son, brother, nephew, grandson, and friend. At just 16 years old, Alex taught us that we should not lead our lives with cynicism and hate, but with love and kindness. Even though Alex is no longer physically with us, he continues to shed light on the unjust and save lives through his story.

I call upon the Government of Paraguay to do everything in its power to guarantee an impartial, transparent, and expeditious trial so that justice is upheld for Alex and his family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOSEPH CARTER CORBIN

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the life and legacy of Joseph Carter Corbin, a renowned African-American educator who left a legacy as a trailblazer and innovator that continues to open new doors for students to this day.

Joseph Carter Corbin was born in Chillicothe, OH, in 1833 to former slaves, who raised their family as free people in Chillicothe and later in Cincinnati. Corbin's family worked hard to make sure he and his siblings had access what had been denied to them—the right to an education along with the opportunities it provides.

Corbin studied at Ohio University, earning an undergraduate degree and two graduate degrees at a time when African Americans had very limited access to higher education. Corbin started his family in Cincinnati, working as a clerk for a municipal bank and co-editing a regular newsletter for African Americans in the Midwest. However, he made it his life's mission to expand access to higher education to African Americans.

In 1871, Joseph Carter Corbin moved to Arkansas where he blazed new trails as the first African-American State superintendent of public instruction. He went on to found, in 1875, the Branch Normal College, which was the first institution of higher education for African-American students in the State. Corbin served as the school's principal and sole teacher for 7 years, before Branch Normal College was designated as an 1890 Land Grant Institution and later merged with the State university system to form University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1972. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff continues to educate students to this day.

We remember Joseph Carter Corbin for his lifetime of breaking down barriers and improving access to higher education for African Americans and others who are left behind by our educational system.

Today Joseph Carter Corbin will receive an Ohio historical marker on the campus of Ohio University Chillicothe, commemorating his impact on Ohio and his contribution to higher education of African Americans across the Nation. I know that my Senate colleagues will join me in celebrating his life and achievements, as well as applauding the actions by Ohio University to honor their distinguished alumnus, Joseph Carter Corbin.●

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MARVIN DALE HOLLINGSWORTH

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to SFC Marvin Dale Hollingsworth who passed away on June 16. Marvin was born January 9, 1925, in