

the bill, which so cruelly exchanges healthcare for working Americans for a massive tax cut for the very wealthy.

The idea is so backward that the American people have revolted against this legislation. Even in the deeply conservative parts of my State, where I have met with my constituents, there is a revulsion to this bill. I am not surprised that some polls say that only 12 percent of Americans support it.

There is no fixing a bill as broken as this one. There is no tweaking a bill as fundamentally flawed as this one. An amended bill that only kicks 15 or 17 or 20 million Americans off their insurance, though less than the last CBO estimate, would still be a moral travesty. An amended bill that gives a slightly smaller tax break to the wealthy while still cutting Medicaid to the bone would still be gravely worse than the status quo. The only answer for my Republican friends is simple: Start over. Abandon cuts to Medicaid, abandon tax breaks for the wealthy, and abandon this one-party approach.

Democrats want to work with our Republican colleagues to actually improve our healthcare system, and, it turns out, that is what the American people want as well.

The Kaiser Family Foundation found that 71 percent of Americans favor a bipartisan effort to improve our healthcare system, as opposed to the Republican's partisan effort. That is, again, that 71 percent favor a bipartisan effort—72 percent of Independents and even 46 percent of Trump supporters.

When will my Republican colleagues start listening to the American people? Start over, drop this partisan process and this devastating bill, and work with us. We are willing to stay 2 weeks, 2 months, or 2 years to get a good healthcare bill for the American people, but we should be included in the process.

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today is the net neutrality day of action. So I wanted to add a few words to this issue.

We depend on a free and open internet to spur innovation and job creation, and our economy works best when innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses of all sizes compete on a level playing field. Net neutrality, very simply, says that everyone—consumers, small businesses, startups—deserve the same access to and quality of internet as big corporations.

When I was growing up in Brooklyn, my father owned a small exterminating business. If his competitor down the street had received preferred electricity service, he would have been rightly outraged, and the law would have protected him from that unfair treatment. We don't reserve certain highways for a single trucking company, and we don't limit phone service to hand-picked stores. We shouldn't re-

serve high-speed internet for a favored few corporations, either, and that was the basis of the FCC's decision to preserve net neutrality back in 2015.

Now, of course, conservative and industry interests see an opportunity to roll back these protections and free access to a free and open internet in order to favor powerful corporations. That seems to be what they want.

President Trump's appointee to the FCC, Chairman Ajit Pai, has already taken several actions to undercut fair internet access. In his first 2 weeks on the job, Chairman Pai stopped nine companies from providing discounted high-speed internet to low-income individuals, and he jammed through nearly a dozen industry-backed actions, including some to begin curtailing net neutrality.

Once again, this administration favors the big, wealthy, special corporate interests over the average American. The American people should realize that is what the Trump administration is doing time and again. They talk like they are for working people, but when it comes to actions like this one on net neutrality, they favor the big special interests that, Mr. and Mrs. American Consumer, are going to make sure that in many instances you pay more. It is another example of the Trump administration sticking up for big corporations and special interests to the detriment of the people and small businesses—exactly the opposite of what President Trump promised in his campaign.

The Open Internet Order is working well, and it should remain undisturbed. If President Trump and Chairman Pai proceed down the path of dismantling net neutrality, they can expect a wall of resistance from Senate Democrats. We will fight tooth and nail to protect fair and equal internet access for all Americans. President Trump, our Republican colleagues, and Chairman Pai can expect a wall of resistance from the American people, as well, who are already making their voices heard in record numbers. So far, over 6 million—6 million—Americans have sent comments to the FCC on this issue. The fight has just begun, and we will not let up until the FCC abandons its wrong-headed plans.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Nye nomination, which the clerk will report.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nye nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Ex.]

YEAS—100

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Franken | Nelson |
| Baldwin | Gardner | Paul |
| Barrasso | Gillibrand | Perdue |
| Bennet | Graham | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Grassley | Portman |
| Blunt | Harris | Reed |
| Booker | Hassan | Risch |
| Boozman | Hatch | Roberts |
| Brown | Heinrich | Rounds |
| Burr | Heitkamp | Rubio |
| Cantwell | Heller | Sanders |
| Capito | Hirono | Sasse |
| Cardin | Hoeven | Schatz |
| Carper | Inhofe | Schumer |
| Casey | Isakson | Scott |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Shaheen |
| Cochran | Kaine | Shelby |
| Collins | Kennedy | Stabenow |
| Coons | King | Straw |
| Corker | Klobuchar | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Leahy | Thune |
| Cotton | Lee | Tillis |
| Crapo | Manchin | Toomey |
| Cruz | Markey | Udall |
| Daines | McCain | Van Hollen |
| Donnelly | McCaskill | Warner |
| Duckworth | McConnell | Warren |
| Durbin | Menendez | Whitehouse |
| Enzi | Merkley | Wicker |
| Ernst | Moran | Wyden |
| Feinstein | Murkowski | Young |
| Fischer | Murphy | |
| Flake | Murray | |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Nye nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill 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 William Francis Hagerty IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of William Francis Hagerty IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Ex.]

YEAS—89

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Alexander | Feinstein | Murphy |
| Baldwin | Fischer | Murray |
| Barrasso | Flake | Nelson |
| Bennet | Franken | Paul |
| Blumenthal | Gardner | Perdue |
| Blunt | Graham | Portman |
| Boozman | Grassley | Reed |
| Brown | Hassan | Risch |
| Burr | Hatch | Roberts |
| Cantwell | Heitkamp | Rounds |
| Capito | Heller | Rubio |
| Cardin | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Carper | Inhofe | Schatz |
| Casey | Isakson | Schumer |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott |
| Cochran | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Collins | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Coons | King | Strange |
| Corker | Klobuchar | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Leahy | Thune |
| Cotton | Lee | Tillis |
| Crapo | Manchin | Toomey |
| Cruz | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Daines | McCain | Warner |
| Donnelly | McCaskey | Whitehouse |
| Duckworth | McConnell | Wicker |
| Durbin | Menendez | Wyden |
| Enzi | Moran | Young |
| Ernst | Murkowski | |

NAYS—11

| | | |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Booker | Hirono | Stabenow |
| Gillibrand | Merkley | Udall |
| Harris | Peters | Warren |
| Heinrich | Sanders | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 11.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of William Francis Hagerty IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about

what I saw happen over the Fourth of July in Wyoming while visiting with people, visiting with patients, doctors, and nurses. What I am seeing is that the pain of ObamaCare continues to worsen. The healthcare crisis we are seeing across this country continues to grow. The crisis is rising, the choices are disappearing, and the American people are desperate for Congress to step in and do something to help rescue them from the rising costs and collapsing choices of the Obama healthcare law.

It is interesting. When the Democrats passed ObamaCare, the Democratic leader at the time, Harry Reid, said that we would all get an “earful of wonderment and happiness.” Those were his words about how great the law was. Well, every weekend at home in Wyoming and I am sure in the Presiding Officer’s State of North Carolina, we get an earful, too, and it is not about wonderment and happiness over ObamaCare. What I hear from patients, doctors, and nurses at home is that ObamaCare is hurting them, hurting our communities, hurting our State. I hear about the rise in premiums. I hear about the declining number of options, the collapse of ObamaCare. We have one choice in Wyoming. We used to have two. Both lost money in spite of very high premiums. What we saw is that one ended up going out of business, and the one we have in business—the only one we have—is still losing money.

We are fortunate because we have at least one provider providing coverage. There are now 40 counties across America where no one will be selling ObamaCare insurance next year—no one, not a single company will be selling ObamaCare insurance.

In Nevada, where prior Senator Harry Reid is from, only three counties are going to have anyone selling on the ObamaCare exchange—only three of the counties in the entire State, the State that Harry Reid represented in the Senate for many years. People living everywhere else in his home State will have I think one choice, maybe more, but in terms of these counties, no one is selling ObamaCare insurance at all. The State health insurance exchange put out a statement in his home State that said that the people living in the rest of the State face what they described as a healthcare crisis.

Democrats predicted wonderment and happiness about ObamaCare, but there is a healthcare crisis all across the country. People in that State are going to have no access to the insurance plans the Democrats promised them under ObamaCare. A lot of Americans are not much better off or in better shape right now.

There was a headline in the Independence Day edition of USA TODAY that said “1,370-plus counties have only one ACA insurer.” The article was about a study that was done by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. They found that people living in 1,300

counties have no choice when it comes to the ObamaCare plan; there is just one company offering the mandated coverage. Washington says you have to buy it; not many people want to sell it. Washington doesn’t seem to care.

Democrats don’t seem to care about the fact that what they promised was a marketplace and what we have ended up with is a monopoly. Remember when Democrats promised there would be more competition? Essentially there is none. When there is none, we end up with less competition and generally with higher prices, which is what people across the country are seeing. Prices have essentially doubled in ObamaCare marketplaces over the last 4 years. That is why a lot of people are finding out that while they may still have access to coverage, it is so expensive, they can’t afford to buy it—because they are down to one choice.

Health insurance companies keep releasing information about how much higher they expect rates to go next year, which continues to be a problem. I have seen the headlines. “Another ObamaCare Rate Shock.”

Look at what is happening in Tennessee. Earlier this year, Aetna and Humana both said they were dropping out of ObamaCare exchanges completely. Cigna is one of the last big companies that are still willing to sell these plans. Well, they say they are going to have to raise premiums by 42 percent next year.

Look at what is happening in Georgia, just across the border from Tennessee. Blue Cross Blue Shield is asking for an average rate hike of 41 percent in Georgia. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution had an article about it just last week. They said Blue Cross might charge as much as 75 percent more for one plan next year. That is ObamaCare.

Remember President Obama saying that if you like your plan, you can keep your plan? Those plans are gone.

Remember President Obama saying that rates would drop by \$2,500 a year for people? That is not what we saw. What we are seeing is what is continuing today.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is saying that Blue Cross Blue Shield may charge as much as 75 percent more next year. They quoted one man as saying: “That’s a breath taker.” Another woman quoted in the article responded to these price increases by saying simply “Yikes!” That is what people are facing all across the country.

I remember President Obama, leaving office, forcefully defending it and being proud. There is very little to be proud of here.

People all across America are having the exact same reaction as they see how much their own insurance companies are raising their rates all across the country. That is not the wonderment and happiness the Democrats said we would be hearing about when this was passed. The high prices are a big