

a lot of families who simply aren't going to be able to afford a double-digit premium increase in Oregon. It is important to note that Oregon put into place a new State-based reinsurance program, and if not for that reinsurance program, this would have been a 20-percent increase.

I am just going to keep track of all of these increases so we have a sense of what is happening to consumers as a result of this campaign of sabotage. We will add this rate increase in Oregon of 14 percent, and I will make sure I get it right.

The CBO has told us, the repeal of the individual mandate is going to jump premiums by 10 percent. So, in Oregon, you can be relatively sure that had the Republicans not repealed this big part of the Affordable Care Act, you would have been looking at a single-digit increase, something that would have mirrored medical inflation. Yet, because of the actions that had been taken here and because of many of the actions that have been undertaken by this Congress, we are looking at a double-digit increase.

Keith Forrester, who is the head of one of Oregon's biggest insurance companies, said our rate increase reflects the expected costs of providing coverage to our members, including the impact of eliminating the individual mandate.

Senate Democrats are going to be down on the floor pretty relentlessly over the course of the next few months to make people understand that as you are getting your health insurance bills, as you are seeing these big increases, a big reason will be due to the actions that your elected leaders have taken—this Republican Congress and this administration.

Yet the rate increases might be getting even bigger than they already are today. That is because of this expected proliferation of these new junk plans. Again, these are called short-term plans by the administration because they used to be, truly, short-term options. They were 3 months in duration. You would pick up one of these plans in between coverage, and because they were short-term plans, they were not required to cover mental health and maternity, and they could charge you more if you were sick.

This administration has decided these plans can now be sold for a full year, meaning they will essentially stand side by side with regulated plans that have minimum benefits and protect people with preexisting conditions. The administration said, only a couple hundred thousand people nationwide might sign up for these plans.

The CMS's Chief Actuary says—this is President Trump's CMS, the administration's own Chief Actuary—that is wrong; that, in fact, it will be a million and a half people potentially signing up for these junk plans. It could get as big as 1.9 million by 2022.

Who will sign up for these junk plans? It will be healthy people because

healthy people aren't going to need all of the coverage. It will be people who don't have preexisting conditions, who don't have additions or diagnosed mental illnesses. It will leave behind in the exchange plans the people who need the coverage. Those people will not go on the junk plans because they will need insurance plans that cover their illnesses or their diagnoses. What we know is that if you have a sicker population in the exchange-based plans, in the regulated individual market, those premiums will go up.

A recent study found, the combination of the individual mandate and the proliferation of these new junk plans will result, on average, in 16-percent increases in premiums all across the country. In Connecticut, that could mean the premiums will go up by \$1,155.

Now, that is not something the health insurance companies did. That is not because of rising medical costs. That is because of decisions that were made by this Republican Congress and this Republican administration—two decisions. There was one decision to repeal a big part of the Affordable Care Act that protected sick people, that kept their rates lower. Another decision by the administration was to give relatively healthy people access to stripped-down plans.

Admittedly, those two changes may offer some benefit to people today who are healthy. I am not going to deny that those two changes may provide a lower insurance rate for a subset of people who are healthy, but we are not supposed to just represent the healthy people. Today you are healthy, and tomorrow you are not. We are supposed to represent all Americans. In fact, we probably should be going the extra mile to make sure people who, through no fault of their own, have serious diagnoses aren't paying an arm and a leg more for coverage, but we are not doing that because of the steps this Republican Congress and this Republican President have taken.

On average, insurance rates are going to go up for everybody in Connecticut by \$1,100, according to one study, and they are going to potentially skyrocket for people who can't get onto these stripped-down junk plans.

I think it is really important we talk about this. As I walked across the State of Connecticut last summer—something I have come to do in the last few years; I take about 5 or 6 days and walk from one side of the State to the other, which is something the Presiding Officer and others probably can't do in States that are a little bit longer across than 110 miles—healthcare was the dominant theme. In their having heard the news that I would be in a certain town during the day, people waited for me who were miles ahead on the road. They waited ahead of me for hours and hours to talk to me about their illnesses and about their fears that this Congress and this President were going to take away their coverage.

We were successful in defeating the full repeal of the Affordable Care Act, and that is great news, because the Affordable Care Act is more popular than ever before, but this Congress and this President are trying to ruin some of the most important protections in our healthcare system because they are mad that they lost the repeal vote by one vote.

So it is important for us to tell Americans what the consequences of that sabotage campaign are. It certainly means that people are going to get less protection, but it also means that, over the course of the next few months, as rates are filed across the country, you are going to see some devastatingly high premium increases due to the Republican campaign of healthcare sabotage—this week, 14 percent in Oregon; last week or the week before, 91 percent in Maryland, 64 percent in Virginia. This is what happens when you strike blows at the American healthcare system, and it is important for Americans to understand what that means.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I hope that one day soon it will not be necessary to come to the floor of this Senate and shine a spotlight on how the Trump administration is making it harder and harder for women in America to get the healthcare they need and deserve. It seems like not a week goes by without the Trump administration full-on attacking women's healthcare. It is the agenda of what I call healthcare discrimination, and it is out in full force.

The latest news came out officially less than 24 hours ago. The Trump administration has put itself right in the middle of women and their doctors, denying access to critical information that millions of women rely on from physicians and nurses—the very providers they trust and depend on. What this means is that across this country you can say good-bye to the guarantee that women are getting the whole story about their health and the options they have for their care. For millions of women, the healthcare they need is going to have to get a Trump stamp of approval, and that Trump stamp of approval is going to be the requirement to get the care they need.

I just want to say to my colleagues here in the Senate that I think this alone makes a mockery of all the talk I remember hearing from Republican colleagues in this body who said there is going to be patient-centered care in

America. The developments in the last 24 hours basically say that with respect to healthcare, it is not going to be patient-centered care, but it is going to be politics-centered care.

Now, that patient-centered care concept was one of the most common talking points I remember hearing again and again. We heard it in the Finance Committee, where I have the honor to be the ranking Democrat. We heard it again and again: We are going to have patient-centered care. It was part of the crusade to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The whole point of that patient-centered care slogan was to say that the government shouldn't come between patients and their doctors and that it wasn't going to be about politics; it was going to be about patients—making sure that politics and the government didn't come between patients and their doctors.

So here we are now, a few months later, and the Trump administration has just decided point-blank that it will decide what is best for women in Oregon and across the country. They basically said that they ought to be able to gag doctors and deny women the right to hear about healthcare options that, fortunately, are perfectly legal in America today.

The fact is, this new decree—this dictate—from the Trump administration comes with a battery of new restrictions on healthcare clinics that millions of women depend on every single day. We all know what it is about. It is an attack on Planned Parenthood. It is an attack on vital sources of care for women.

As I have said on this floor—I have gone through it again and again—the vast amount of work done by Planned Parenthood has nothing to do with abortion. It is all about vital preventive services for women, which, by the way, are especially important in rural areas.

I am sure we are going to be talking about women's healthcare tomorrow in the Senate Finance Committee, where we will be having a hearing specifically on rural healthcare. There is bipartisan interest in that topic, but I want colleagues to know, it is pretty hard to promote all of the opportunities for sound healthcare and bipartisanship when you have a decision from the Trump administration that has the potential to hit women's healthcare in rural communities like a wrecking ball.

In States like Oregon, thousands of women live in communities where there is not a clinic or a doctor's office every few miles. If the Trump administration finds a backdoor way to shutter the few options these women have today, they may not have anywhere else to turn to get the essentials of healthcare. Women could lose the right to see the doctor of their choosing.

I will just say it point-blank: If somebody wants to take away the right of women in America to see the doctors and the providers of their choice, they

are going to have to run over me. I will tell you, I think women are going to win that fight.

To have women lose access to life-saving services like cancer screenings, routine physicals, birth control, prenatal care, and so much more—that ought to be off the table for politics. It shouldn't be about Democrats and Republicans; it should be about common-sense approaches to ensure that women have all of the options for the healthcare they want and deserve.

Taking healthcare choices away from women is fundamentally wrong. Depriving women of essential healthcare information that they have every right to hear about is fundamentally wrong. The Trump administration putting itself between women and their doctors is fundamentally wrong.

The decision that came down last night, which we learned about last night, is a reckless one. It is a harmful one. We ought to make no mistake about it, it is going to make healthcare worse for women across the country.

I have now had to say it too many times to count: It is long past time for these attacks on women's healthcare to end. I hope it will not be necessary to come to this floor again.

The Trump administration will see how flawed the decision—the dictate—that came down last night is and will retract it. But until they do, I will come to this floor and make the case for ensuring that women are empowered in our country to be able to see the healthcare providers of their choice, to have the opportunity to access the vast array of services that are largely preventive from sea to shining sea.

I yield the floor.

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. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 5, 2017, President Trump announced the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. As a result of that, hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came to the United States as children and are known as Dreamers have faced losing their work permits and face deportation to countries they barely remember.

DACA provided temporary legal status to Dreamers only if they registered with the government, paid a fee of almost \$500, and passed a thorough criminal background check. This DACA Program has been a success. More than

800,000 Dreamers have come forward and received DACA protection, which has allowed them to become a part of the only country they have ever called home.

Many of these Dreamers were brought here as infants and toddlers, raised in this country, pledging allegiance to that flag. They believed they were part of America, and usually at some point when they became teenagers, their parents gave them the terrible news that they were undocumented.

When President Trump decided 8 months ago to repeal DACA, he set March 5 as the deadline for the final expiration of the DACA Program. However, two Federal courts have stepped in and issued orders blocking the President's repeal of this DACA executive order. This means that Dreamers who have DACA can continue to apply to renew their status for now.

I urge every DACA recipient to file their renewal application immediately. The Trump administration is doing everything in its power to fight this court protection, and that court protection could be lifted any day. This means there is a need for Congress to do something.

Again, I urge the Republicans who control Congress to immediately pass the Dream Act—bipartisan legislation I first introduced 17 years ago that would finally give these Dreamers a path to becoming citizens of the United States.

The reality is that tens of thousands of Dreamers are already at risk of losing their work permits and being deported. The Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Kirstjen Nielsen, has promised me that her Department will not deport any DACA recipient with a pending DACA application, even if their status expires. I am going to hold her to that commitment because lives hang in the balance.

However, for DACA recipients whose status has expired, the Department will not authorize them to work unless and until their DACA is renewed. This means that tens of thousands of DACA-eligible individuals could be forced to leave their jobs while their applications are pending and before the renewals are approved.

Then consider the fate of Dreamers who are eligible for DACA but never quite reached that status. They can no longer apply for protection because of President Trump's decision to prohibit new DACA applications after September 5, 2017. For example, a child turning 15—the youngest age at which you can apply for DACA—is now blocked from applying. The non-partisan Migration Policy Institute estimates that in addition to 800,000 DACA recipients, there are an additional 1 million Dreamers who are eligible. Thanks to President Trump's harsh decision to end DACA, 1.8 million Dreamers are at risk of deportation and cannot work to support themselves or contribute to the country they love.