

SANDERS and ELIZABETH WARREN wish to have Americans sacrifice their employer-sponsored insurance to address.

But my Democratic Senate colleagues don't want to do this. They would rather have all the protections of Obamacare, even if you cannot afford the policy. And truly, that is what we are doing now. And now, we get to speaking about the waivers that the Trump administration is giving, somehow they are saying these are terrible things.

Let me point out that, in the seven States with 1332 waivers granted under the Trump administration, health insurance premiums have decreased by 7.5 percent. Some States have had a double-digit reduction. Maryland, for example—and I will come back to Maryland—has had a 30-percent reduction in their health insurance premiums under the 1332 waiver given by the Trump administration. North Dakota had a 20-percent reduction.

And what about if you didn't get a waiver? In my State, which didn't apply for a waiver, premiums are expected to rise 10 percent this coming year—10 percent. So the family of four paying \$25,000 a year with a \$10,000 deductible will pay \$27,500 next year, with a \$12,500 deductible, meaning they will be out almost \$40,000—\$40,000 for their health insurance.

I suspect there is a lot of families in my State that wouldn't have minded if we applied for a waiver if we could just lower premiums, instead of seeing out-of-pocket expense continue to rise.

Now, there is a little bit of an irony here. Maryland has a legislature dominated by Democrats, and they actually got a 1332 waiver. So my Democratic colleagues who are speaking about how terrible these waivers are, they should look back to States which Democrats control who are applying for these waivers.

I am told that Montana has a waiver, Montana with a Democratic Governor who is running for President on the Democratic side of the ticket. Apparently, that person felt it was something that he would sign into law and otherwise approve because it would be beneficial to the people in the State.

I don't know why, in the Senate, my Democratic Senate colleagues want Americans to pay more for insurance. Why do they insist on continuing to advocate for policies which make healthcare, health insurance, so unaffordable?

This is personal for me. Besides being an American wanting all to have coverage, for 25 years, I worked in a hospital for the working poor, for the uninsured, trying to bring healthcare to those who could not otherwise afford it. It has been my life mission, if you will, as a physician, to try and get healthcare to those who cannot have it.

And so when folks want to give them this great policy, but you can't afford it, but don't worry, it is a great policy if you can afford it, I have to smile.

Like the Greek myth Tantalus—where we get the word “tantalize” from—where the prize is always just beyond the reach, just beyond the reach, always there to tempt, but you can never have.

So you have a family making \$120,000 a year having to pay \$25,000 for insurance, with a \$10,000 deductible. They are sacrificing so many things. It is tantalizing, but we are sure this is a better state of affairs.

Now, what the administration has done, they have given States flexibility to craft affordable options for families that do not have subsidies. It respects the fact that some States are different than other States. Imagine that.

Alaska is different than Rhode Island—Alaska, if you laid it across a map of the lower 48, would stretch from Georgia to California, but has fewer people than Rhode Island, and Rhode Island, which is a postage stamp compared to Alaska. Those States are different, so allow them to have different healthcare systems.

By the way, when we do this, we are assured by the administration that they continue to enforce protections for those with preexisting conditions and all other things that we as Americans, that we as Republicans, that I as a physician who have spent my life caring for the uninsured, value—so that, if healthcare is not affordable, it is not available. And what we have seen by the folks on the left who are concerned about healthcare costs is a doubling down on government control.

They want to go for Medicare for All. They want to take away your employer-sponsored insurance. But at least they acknowledge that cost is a problem. What my Senate colleagues are not doing, the ones who are speaking today, is acknowledging that cost is a problem, and you can have the greatest plan in the world and, if it is unaffordable, then that greatness is ironic. It is on a piece of paper, but it is not real in someone's life.

What we have seen is that States, when they come to the Federal Government requesting permission to put in a program which is specific to the circumstances in their State, they are not only covering the citizens in their State, continuing to have protections for those with preexisting conditions, but they are also lowering premiums by as much as 30 percent. And that is a good thing, and I have no clue why my Democratic colleagues do not want to see premiums lowered by 30 percent.

Madam President, thank you, and I yield the floor.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### REMEMBERING ELIJAH CUMMINGS

• Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, our Nation mourns the loss of one of the country's greatest leaders, Representative Elijah Eugene Cummings, whose life's work as a fervent champion for

civil rights and his beloved community in Baltimore, MD left an indelible mark on our Nation. Congressman Cummings died on October 17, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. He was 68 years old.

Representative Cummings was born on January 18, 1951, in Baltimore, MD. He was the third of seven children born to sharecroppers, Robert Cummings and Ruth Elma Cummings, who moved north from South Carolina in search of better opportunities for their family. Representative Cummings graduated from Baltimore City College High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science from Howard University in Washington, DC, where he served as student government president and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Representative Cummings obtained a juris doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1975. Throughout his career, he received 13 honorary doctoral degrees from universities throughout the country.

Representative Cummings' career in public service began in 1983 when we was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. Representative Cummings proudly served in this role for 14 years, eventually becoming the State legislature's first African-American speaker pro tempore. In 1996, he was elected to represent Maryland's 7th District in the House of Representatives as a member of the 104th Congress. Representative Cummings focused on legislative priorities that promoted equality and economic development, including: criminal justice reform, lowering prescription drug prices, and combating the opioid epidemic, among others. As a respected Congressman, he became a ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

As the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Representative Cummings was a powerful voice who achieved a reputation as a skilled consensus builder. He understood accountability and protecting those who courageously spoke the truth to protect our Nation. He fought daily to ensure our democracy was not only intact but striving to live up to its promise. At the foundation of his fight was advocacy for justice and equal opportunity for all.

Representative Cummings made it his personal responsibility to champion civil rights issues, particularly voting rights. His fierce advocacy was fueled, in part, by the words of his mother who on her death bed, implored him to ensure the right to vote was preserved. He would heed her words by delivering his own stirring calls to action. He understood the significance of the right to vote in our democracy and worked tirelessly to oppose voter suppression, condemn discriminatory anti-voting tactics, and launch critical investigations when voters—particularly people of color—faced discriminatory voting

challenges. Representative Cummings' visionary leadership and service has and will continue to strengthen our democracy for generations to come.

Representative Elijah Cummings' steadfast dedication to the city of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and our entire country will continue to inspire others for generations to come. An impassioned speaker, he was truly a voice for the voiceless. As a mentor, he helped so many young people live in their purpose and make the world a better place. He fought for the soul of Nation and selflessly dedicated his life to empowering and uplifting his constituents.

Representative Cummings is survived by his wife, Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, his children, and a host of family and friends. It was a great honor to attend his powerful funeral and memorial service with many of my colleagues and friends.

Representative Cummings often said that "children are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see." A light is gone from our world, but Representative Cummings' legacy will shine bright through all the individuals he touched and all the movements he helped build. ●

#### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, in just a few weeks, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will hold their annual meeting in Laramie, WY. This year is unique, as the organization marks their 100th meeting and celebrates ten decades of service to farmers and ranchers across the State. Without question, the agriculture industry in the State, and in the region, has seen immense benefit from the important work the Federation employees do every day.

Today, the Wyoming Farm Bureau is integral in gathering public opinion and disseminating information to farmers and ranchers across the state. Officially, their mission identifies "The primary goal of WYFB is to take appropriate actions to protect private property rights and help members achieve an equitable return on their investment." Just as they did in 1920, the organization brings individuals together to identify common threats to their way of life. Wyoming Farm Bureau worked closely with the national organization during the 2015 waters of the United States rulemaking process to effectively communicate the negative impacts the rule would have on those who are the primary caretakers of our Nation's natural resources.

As chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I invited the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation president, Todd Fornstrom, to share his story. Todd emphasized the need to protect clean, plentiful water sources while providing predictability for States, counties, and communities.

Through his testimony, Todd skillfully shared the undeniable link between agricultural production and the Wyoming way of life and Wyoming's commitment to protecting our precious resources.

I believe you can tell the strength of an organization by the dedication shown by its members and staff. Todd Fornstrom is serving his third elected term as president. Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton recently celebrated his 36th anniversary with the organization, Media and Member Relations Director Kerin Clark just passed 25 years, and Brett Moline has served Farm Bureau for 13 years. Every one of the 23 counties in Wyoming has a local Farm Bureau organization to build policy and address local issues. The county committees are key parts of the communities they serve.

Without question, farmers and ranchers faced many challenges when the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation was founded in 1920. Just as they did 100 years ago, farmers and ranchers continue to work together today to produce abundant, high-quality food and fiber for their neighbors and communities around the world. I can only imagine the challenging discussions that prompted the first meeting in 1920, but I am certain early members left that meeting with the same confidence they will leave the 100th meeting.

Working in agriculture is not simply a job. It is a calling, and sometimes, a challenging way of life. I rise today with great appreciation for the work Wyoming farmers and ranchers have done, and continue to do, for our great State. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in congratulating each member of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation on their 100th anniversary.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING WEED AND PEST COUNCIL

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a significant anniversary for the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council. When they meet in a few short weeks, the council will celebrate 75 years of service to Wyoming ecosystems and communities. While the council is partially funded by the State of Wyoming, the council's success lies in dedication of staff, volunteers, seasonal employees, and partners who dedicate themselves to eradicating invasive species and noxious weeds.

Invasive species threaten the delicate balance in nearly every ecosystem. Around the world, invasive species cause billions of dollars in damage to the environment and to economies each year. They threaten watersheds, forests, and grasslands. They crowd out important native species, increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires, introduce disease, and fundamentally undermine the natural cycle of life. Dedicated experts work each day to stem the tide of new introductions.

Each of the 23 counties in Wyoming has a Weed and Pest District, run by

staff and an elected board. The districts set policy, monitor existing infestations, work with the public to develop a comprehensive list of risks, and act quickly when new species are detected. Often, Weed and Pest supervisors wear many hats; depending on the hour, they are grant writers, weed sprayers, staff managers, and policy experts.

Wyoming Weed and Pest coordinator, Slade Franklin, detailed the important work of the council when I invited him to testify before the Environment and Public Works Committee earlier this year. In his testimony, Slade shared the coordination that is required to ensure invasive species are not able to gain an advantage in States where lands are managed by multiple jurisdictions. Slade knows that invasive species do not respect fence lines, and during his decade-long leadership of the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council, he has forged important relationships with local, State, and Federal agencies. His leadership has been integral in many of the State's successes.

It is without hesitation that I say Wyoming's forests and plains would look much different today if the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council had not unified in 1973. While the State has struggled with cheatgrass and Russian olive, they have been hugely successful in preventing new infestations of invasive mussels and limiting spread of other grasses, like *ventenata*. Each municipal water manager, rancher, hiker, forester, hunter, and miner owes a debt of gratitude for the good work of the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council.

Whether they work from horseback, ATV, the air, or a desk, I rise today to honor the dedicated professionals to work to keep our ecosystems healthy. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in thanking them and wishing the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council another 75 years of success.

#### REMEMBERING MORRIS ANDREWS

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Morris Andrews, a revered champion of teachers, children, and public education in Wisconsin.

Morris Andrews was born in Big Rapids, MI, on November 26, 1935. As a talented student athlete, Andrews graduated from Big Rapids High School and went on to play football at Central Michigan University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. He earned his master's degree from Indiana University in physical education.

Morris taught high school government, coached football, and organized teachers throughout the country. He came to Wisconsin to lead the Wisconsin Education Association Council, WEAC, in 1972, initiating a transformation in the way teachers were valued in the State. Morris brought pride, power, and respectable wages to the teaching profession.