

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. On behalf of the over half a million hardworking neighbors back home and across the Tampa Bay area, I rise in strong support of the extension of the lifesaving and cost-saving ACA tax credits.

Families are being crushed by inflation and high healthcare costs, and they need the savings that the ACA tax credits provide. Mr. Speaker, 4.7 million Floridians, one in five who live in the Sunshine State, depend on the ACA. It is estimated that without the tax credits, over 1.4 million Floridians will lose their health insurance entirely.

They are entrepreneurs. They are caregivers. They are cancer patients. They are part-time workers. They are small-business workers who have seen their premiums more than double, and they deserve so much better.

That includes Yohanna, a small business owner in Tampa and the mother of a daughter with Down syndrome, who without enhanced tax credits defaults to an insurance plan where every visit will cost her \$150 for a copay. It includes Matthew, a truck driver from St. Petersburg, whose premiums rose from \$64 a month to \$736 per month.

We need to extend these tax credits, and we need to do it now.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, imagine being a farmer choosing between insurance and seed, a small business owner weighing a doctor's visit against payroll, families hoping nothing goes wrong because they are one ER visit away from being homeless. This is the reality for rural America today.

The big, ugly bill took a sledgehammer to rural healthcare, and letting the ACA enhanced premium tax credits expire will accelerate the damage and hasten the harm.

In rural America, places like Hawaii, insurance coverage is the business model that keeps hospitals, clinics, and emergency rooms open. When premiums rise, coverage drops, revenue disappears, and hospital doors close. Without those credits, rural Americans will see their monthly healthcare costs rise by 107 percent. A single premium hike will make the difference between whether a family eats, pays their rent, or sees a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, 2.8 million rural Americans will lose coverage. For them, this is not politics. This is life or death.

Healthcare should never depend on your ZIP Code. This clean extension of the ACA tax credits will save lives.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago today, Republicans allowed the ACA premium tax credits to expire after telling us there was no money to do so.

Healthcare premiums have soared, and millions of Americans will lose their healthcare coverage because they simply can't afford it.

Just 3 days later, the President found money, a lot of money, to pay for a very extensive and expensive military raid to capture the President of Venezuela. This regime change and the nation building that will come later is going to cost us additional billions of dollars.

We have seemingly endless money to spend for illegal, unauthorized war-mongering, but there is no money available for healthcare for Americans. It doesn't have to be this way. We are the richest Nation in the world. We have the money to make sure everyone has healthcare.

Voting to extend these healthcare tax credits is the least that we can do for Americans to show them that we are focused on them and their needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, in Rhode Island and all across the country, people are being crushed by high healthcare costs because Republicans have refused to extend the Affordable Care Act funding. People are seeing their premiums go up by thousands of dollars a year, and many of them are having to make that hard choice to not go with insurance at all and hope that they won't end up with an emergency room bill that will bankrupt them.

Meanwhile, President Trump and the Republicans are talking about buying Greenland. They have the money to buy Greenland but not to help fund healthcare for the American people. They have the money. Donald Trump wants to expand the size of the military budget by \$500 billion which he just posted today, but they don't have the money to fund healthcare for the American people. They have the money for ballrooms and lavish parties.

Here is an idea. How about we invest in providing relief to the American people who are being crushed by out-of-control healthcare costs. We have an opportunity now to do the right thing by the people who sent us here and to extend this Affordable Care Act funding now once and for all.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This is it, Mr. Speaker. We need a majority of this House to vote "yes" on this rule so that we can have an up-or-down vote on reversing the premium increases. It is that simple.

If we do nothing, millions of families will lose their healthcare. People won't be able to see doctors if they get sick. Medical bills will stack up. Millions more will be left paying hundreds or even thousands of dollars more every month just to maintain their coverage. They will have to cut back on food or won't be able to make their rent because of these steep increases.

In some cases, the damage has already been done. Many people have already decided to forgo coverage. In my home State of Massachusetts, over 25,000 people canceled their coverage

because Republicans let premiums skyrocket.

□ 1810

That is nearly double the number of people who canceled coverage last year. It is a huge increase that will drive up costs for everyone and make America less healthy. I am sure that my colleagues are seeing their constituents make similar choices.

Let me end with this. We have the power right now to give peace of mind to working families that they won't go bankrupt just trying to afford health insurance. We can make their lives a little easier. We can help them sleep a little more soundly and breathe more easily knowing that they can afford coverage for their families.

I have said this over and over and over again, but we are the richest country in the history of the world. People ought to have better coverage. They ought to have more affordable coverage. Healthcare is a fundamental human right, and we should come together in a bipartisan way and support this rule and support the underlying legislation. We can prevent a catastrophe from impacting millions and millions of people in this country.

We have lots of disagreements, but, boy, I would like to think if we could all agree on one thing, it ought to be that people ought to not get screwed over when it comes to healthcare, that they ought not be paying double, triple, quadruple what they normally pay for their health insurance premiums.

I urge a "yes" vote on this rule. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment, pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 119th Congress, and the order of the house of January 3, 2025, of the following Member to the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party:

Mr. KHANNA, California, to rank before Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1820

SAVING HOMEOWNERS FROM OVERREGULATION WITH EXCEPTIONAL RINSING ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to House Resolution 977, I call up the bill (H.R. 4593) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to revise the definition of showerhead, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 977, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4593

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing Act” or the “SHOWER Act”.

SEC. 2. REVISED DEFINITION OF SHOWERHEAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321(31)(D) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(31)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) The term ‘showerhead’ has the meaning given such term in ASME A112.18.1-2024, except such term does not include safety shower showerheads.”.

(b) REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall promulgate such revisions to regulations as may be necessary to conform such regulations to the definition of showerhead in section 321(31)(D) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4593.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, under the previous administration, American consumers

were subjected to Washington’s constant micromanagement of appliances and equipment in their homes and businesses.

In fact, the Biden-Harris administration finalized more than 30 new or amended energy efficiency standards, totaling over \$60 billion in costs and regulating nearly every appliance in Americans’ homes. Part of this effort focused on complicating the definition of a showerhead by prohibiting multi-nozzle shower systems if the whole system collectively delivers more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute, instead of following the straightforward statutory definition of a showerhead.

The new, highly bureaucratic definition was an amazing 13,000 words in length and a novel interpretation. This resulted in shower systems with more than one nozzle having a lower flow rate compared to individual showerheads.

Additionally, this definition is misleading to consumers looking to buy multi-nozzled shower systems for the purpose of increasing water flow.

President Trump has taken executive action to restore the regulatory definitions and standards to the law’s original intent by allowing a maximum water use of 2.5 gallons per minute for each faucet in a shower system. H.R. 4593 would codify President Trump’s definition by allowing the 2.5 maximum flow rate to apply to each nozzle in the shower system.

This legislation will ensure manufacturers, like Delta Faucet in my district in Morgantown, Kentucky, are not subjected to the swing of the political pendulum with ever-changing interpretations of the law.

Further, this legislation is simple and pro-consumer choice. It is unfortunate that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are seeking more regulation for its own sake and limiting the choices of American consumers. If an individual wants low water pressure, they have a variety of options. They can purchase a single-nozzle showerhead, or they can simply turn down the faucet. It is that simple, but those choices must be left to individual Americans and not to Washington.

H.R. 4593 would bring regulatory certainty to manufacturers, performance effectiveness to a household appliance we all use, and choice to American consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The American people are struggling to make ends meet. They are feeling the pinch of the affordability crisis and bearing the brunt of rising costs at the hands of Republicans. Yet my colleagues continue to turn a blind eye to the cost-of-living crisis. In fact, President Trump has called the affordability crisis a con job and a Democratic scam.

That is how out of touch they are, Mr. Speaker. Healthcare costs are sky-

rocketing, and electricity bills are through the roof. Meanwhile, President Trump just illegally invaded Venezuela, and Secretary Kennedy is putting children’s lives at risk by restricting access to vaccines.

There is a lot this Congress could be doing this week, but the first bill Republicans bring to the floor in 2026 is about showerheads. It is almost impossible to believe. To make matters worse, this bill will actually drive up monthly utility bills for American families.

Electricity prices are up 13 percent across the country. Eighty million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills, and Republicans want to make that financial pain even worse. Meanwhile, grocery prices are surging, and, of course, monthly healthcare premiums are skyrocketing across the Nation, thanks to the healthcare crisis Republicans created by failing to extend the Affordable Care Act’s enhanced premium tax credits. As a result of their inaction, more than 20 million Americans are now facing skyrocketing monthly healthcare premiums. In many cases, and I will say in my home State of New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, they are double or triple the cost that they paid last year.

We just heard a debate on the discharge petition a few minutes ago, and as a result of that discharge petition, and no thanks to most of the Republicans and the leadership, we are going to have an opportunity to vote on the premium tax credits. The bottom line is that that has nothing to do with the Republican leadership. This was a Democratic initiative that a few Republicans finally joined with us so that we have an opportunity to vote on it.

There isn’t a single thing that the Republicans can point to about dealing with the affordability crisis that they have created. President Trump and his Republican accomplices are completely out of touch with the alarming reality millions of Americans are facing. Republicans have no plans to address affordability, and I think today proves it.

They are beginning this new Congress with a bill that changes the definition of “showerhead” in order to open the door for the Trump administration to increase already rising monthly utility bills and to waste our scarce water resources. This bill would actually increase costs for consumers.

In Trump’s first term, he redefined “showerheads” to allow them to use significantly more energy and water. Showerheads with multiple nozzles could vastly exceed the current limits. For example, a showerhead with eight nozzles could use up to 20 gallons of water per minute under Trump’s 2020 definition.

Think about this, Mr. Speaker: You are raising the costs. You are increasing utility bills not only for electricity but also for water. You are wasting energy, and you are wasting water.

The bottom line is that manufacturers didn’t want this. They largely rejected this move by President Trump