

or closing their doors. I met with local health care leaders in my district. Among other problems, we are seeing sharp increases in emergency room use. If we don't have the health coverage, then we, the taxpayers, will end up picking up the cost.

Rising unemployment rates lead to higher numbers of uninsured and sharp declines of normal doctor visits. No one should be denied; they should be able to have access to health care.

Health care reform will not be an easy task. We must act on behalf of the American families that we represent. I urge my colleagues to give American families peace of mind again by working towards a true health care reform.

KENNY CALLAHAN ACT

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 2881, the Kenny Callahan Act, a bill I recently introduced.

Kenny Callahan was a friend and a cameraman in a local TV station in east Alabama. Recently, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December of 2008 and died less than 2 months later.

Kenny worked two jobs to support his family, but when he got sick, he couldn't work any longer. Given only a short time to live, he could not outlive the waiting period required to receive Social Security and Medicare benefits. This bill, named for Kenny, would eliminate the waiting period for Social Security and Medicare benefits for folks diagnosed with terminal illness.

This legislation is about starting a compassionate conversation to help these people and their families. It's about a moral obligation to help those most vulnerable in our communities.

If ending the disability waiting periods for everyone is not included in the health care reform package, at a minimum, it should be eliminated for the terminally ill.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

ENERGY WRAP-UP

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House took an extraordinary first step by creating jobs in the form of unleashing a new generation of energy technology built right here in America.

Whether we agree on any other issue, each of us is committed to keeping this country safe, and the American Clean Energy and Security Act is essential to our national security.

The bill that passed the House marks a critical first step to creating clean energy incentives that will spur the de-

velopment of new technologies, create jobs, and fuel our economic national recovery.

While I was home last week in south Florida, I had the chance to meet with Yann Brandt and his colleagues at Advanced Green Technologies. As a solar panel designer and distributor, AGT is on the cutting edge of alternative energy technologies and is creating jobs as we speak. That's exactly the kind of innovative local business this legislation will support.

I am confident that Florida can be a national leader, as well as the rest of the country, on clean energy technology. This bill gives our business leaders the tools they need to create jobs and compete in the next great American industry.

LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CHOOSE THEIR HEALTH CARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the American people struggle to make ends meet, too many also live with the challenge of affording basic health care for themselves and their families.

Republicans want to make high-quality health care coverage affordable and accessible for every American and let those who like their current health care coverage keep it. Republicans support health care reform that puts patients and their health first and protects the important doctor-patient relationship.

Democrats are pushing for a government takeover of health care that would have devastating consequences for families and small businesses. A government takeover of health care will raise taxes, ration care, and let government bureaucrats make decisions that should be made by families and their doctors.

Republicans want to empower doctors and patients by making health care more affordable, more accessible, and more accountable. The American people deserve the peace of mind that comes with knowing they have the health care their families need when they need it.

We cannot allow politicians and special interests to stand between patients and the care they need. The American people deserve the freedom to choose the health care that is best for them and their families.

GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, the American people know very clearly that health care reform must happen, and it must happen now. They also know that it must transcend politics. This isn't a Republican or a Democratic issue. They know that crippling costs are

hurting our families, hurting our businesses, and hurting our Nation. By the end of today, and the close of business in this House, 14,000 of our fellow citizens will lose their health care coverage.

Reforming health care must have at its base reforming how we do Medicare formulas. My home district is home to the Mayo Clinic. As you heard my colleague speak earlier, providing high-quality care at a low price is the hallmark of the Mayo Clinic. But because of the way Medicare payments are now figured today, the Mayo Clinic and others who provide high-quality care at low cost are penalized. We can change the mix in the index by making sure Medicare physician fee formulas measure quality.

I urge my colleagues, Republican and Democrats, to make this the hallmark. Make the Mayo model the model for this country, and we will get high-quality, low-cost care that will strengthen our Nation.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, just days after the 4th of July events that celebrate our freedom, it's ironic that Congress will begin consideration of a health care proposal that threatens the freedom to choose and keep the health care we want and we need.

Health care is not about bureaucrat systems. It's about people. It's about patients. It's about life and death. Quality health care is the foundation for our children to grow and prosper and for our seniors to enjoy comfortable retirements.

We can all agree that our health care system must be transformed, but a \$1.6 trillion proposal that puts government bureaucrats between doctors and patients, raises health care costs for families, taxes our health care plans, and reduces choices is not the answer to ensure that our health care system remains focused on people.

HONORING TOM WILLS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to mark the retirement of a man who has been a true institution of my hometown over the last 40 years.

In an era where loyalty is fleeting and in an industry that is constantly changing, the people of Louisville are grateful that Tom Wills dedicated his career to serving our community.

It was 1969 when Tom came to Louisville to work as WAVE 3 TV's meteorologist. In the decades since, Tom has been there for Louisvillians through it all. Whether it was the 1974 tornado, the snowstorm of 1994, or the ice storm this past winter, Tom's reassuring voice has been a fixture on televisions throughout Louisville.