

The GOP plan provides for guaranteed access regardless of preexisting conditions.

The Republican plan lets Americans who like their coverage keep it.

It expands Community Health Centers that are critical points of access that provide health care services based on an affordable sliding scale.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan reins in junk lawsuits and will bring down health care costs. We need health care access, affordability, quality, and choice that Americans deserve. Americans deserve the Republican health care plan.

THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, during the upcoming work session, I will return to southern Nevada, which is ground zero for the foreclosure crisis that triggered our current recession. During my time at home, I will be working with constituents who need help with their mortgages, many in homes that are underwater.

Families throughout my district are struggling to make their mortgage payments, and one out of every 16 homeowners in Nevada has faced a foreclosure filing. Folks in District Three clearly need assistance to stay in their homes and avoid foreclosures.

Tonight in kitchens across the country and in every congressional district, families worry about losing the roof over their heads. I'm sure that every one of my colleagues in Congress will hear from such families during the upcoming district work period. I hope they will bring their stories back to Washington. And when Congress reconvenes in September, let us place a renewed focus on helping families stay in their homes and providing them the assistance they need.

There is much more that Congress can and should do, and I commit to working on this issue when we come back after Labor Day. I hope you will all join me in this effort.

IRAN'S MARTYRS OF FREEDOM

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

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, recently we have seen the end of Islam's 40-day period of mourning for the martyrs of freedom that were killed on June 20, Neda Soltan, Taraneh Mousavi.

And what did the regime do in response? They prevented people from attending their grave sites. They removed people who wanted to lay flowers. And in the end, as reported by msnbc.com, Brigadier General Abdollah Araghi warned against any further gatherings: "We are not joking. We will confront those who will fight against the clerical establishment."

Yes, Mr. Speaker, they will fight against rape and murder, martyrs such as Neda and Taraneh. But the world will mourn these martyrs, and soon Iran and all the world will rejoice when these murderers are brought to justice and the Iranian people breathe free.

UTMB EMERGENCY ROOM OPENING

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the folks in Galveston, Texas, who have worked to make the reopening of the University of Texas Medical Branch emergency room possible.

Last September, Hurricane Ike hit Galveston, swamping parts of the island and forcing thousands of residents to evacuate. The emergency room's floor is at one of the highest physical elevations on the island, more than 30 feet above sea level. Yet the power of Ike's damage delayed the reopening of the emergency room until last week. Southeast Texas lost one of three level one trauma centers, putting a strain on the whole region.

But thanks to tremendous community support, the emergency room will begin receiving patients and eventually offer the same level of trauma care it did before. Every minute counts in a life-threatening emergency. And the reopening of this facility will help provide timely emergency medical services to the area residents.

As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to continue to do all I can to ensure complete recovery for the impacted areas of Texas by Ike. This is a tremendous step forward for the recovery of Galveston and the neighboring communities devastated by Hurricane Ike.

I wish UTMB, its doctors, its nurses, and its staff a successful future. Welcome back.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 75th anniversary of my hometown airline, Continental Airlines. I would like to thank all of the employees, past and present and those in the future, who have continued to serve our community and the Nation. We thank them for their original beginnings with great history and great leadership.

I'm reminded of one of their transfer names, Eastern Airlines. I'm reminded, of course, of the uniforms and the admiration that children would give the pilots and flight attendants. We still do that today.

Continental Airlines is in my district, and as well the Bush Interconti-

mental Airport, which is their hub airport.

Let me thank them for the many economic dollars they provide to the fourth largest city in the Nation, Houston, Texas, and as well let me congratulate them as they move forward in a new structure that will allow more diversity, more competition, but stronger airline services and customer relations.

Thank you to the leadership of Continental Airlines and to their CEO, Larry Kellner, and all of the hardworking employees. You've had 75 years. You should be proud.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the voluntary public health insurance option is an important part of health care reform for a number of reasons.

First, the public plan will provide a competitor for private plans that will help make the entire system more efficient and help drive down prices for everyone. Second, it provides assurance to all Americans that there will be an affordable, comprehensive health insurance plan available to them no matter where they live or work. In many places there are currently only one or two insurers people can choose from.

Third and of vital importance, the public plan will have the ability to test and implement innovative methods of payment that have the potential to make the entire health care system more efficient and patient centered.

The current fee-for-service structure is a fragmented system. No provider will be required to participate in the public plan, but for those who do, it's important for the public plan to be able to implement effective payment reforms for all participating providers. Allowing individual providers to negotiate their own rates and their own methods of payment with the plan will slow the vital process of moving us towards a more efficient, integrated health care system that serves both the patients and the taxpayers.

Now is the time to act on health care reform, including a robust public health insurance option.

HONORING J.D. WILLIAMS

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the loss of J.D. Williams, who expired 3 days ago.

J.D. Williams was a very special person. He worked with the young people, taught so many how to play baseball. And, of course, he was an outstanding athlete himself.

He was always giving of himself to help others. I recall as a youngster how