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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-
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Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am con-
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opportunity to put a human face on the
task before us with respect to reform-
ing health care.

We have spoken about costs, tax in-
creases and job losses. We’ve spoken
about access to care and about govern-
ment-run options. These are all deeply
important factors in this equation, and
we have a duty to the American people
to debate them fully, but there is also
a human element that cuts through the
debate and the rhetoric that per-
fectly crystallizes what is at stake here.

My Republican colleagues and I have
tried to impress on the other side the
importance of maintaining the doctor-
patient decision-making process. I
think that Joshua Loya’s story says it all.

Brittany Kraft is a constituent of
mine from Pearland, Texas. She was 24
weeks pregnant in March of 2002 when
her unborn son was diagnosed with hy-
pplastic left heart syndrome. She was
told that he would not be born alive.
Her cardiologist consulted with groups
of surgeons around the country, but
did not offer the help that she need-
ed. "They tell us to wait. They tell us to
be patient." We cannot wait, we cannot
be patient.

People are losing their health,
their homes or their very lives because
our health system does not work for them. This is not right. It is
not just. And we can do better, much better.

It is our moral obligation to lead.

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The insurance companies do not need
our leadership. The drug companies do
not need our leadership. They do not
need our help. Real, hardworking peo-
ple need us to lead. We must make sure
that in our rush to appease the few,
that we do not harm the many. We must
adopt a bill that has a strong public
health insurance option. We must
adopt a bill that makes health
premiums affordable to low and mid-
dle-income workers. We must not nego-
tiate away our commitment to the
working poor and to middle class
Americans. This is the kind of leader-
ship Americans need.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once
said, “It is only a minority forms of inequa-
ity, injustice in health care is the most
shocking and inhumane.” If we do not
protect our most vulnerable hard-
working Americans and their families,
we will perpetuate this injustice. The
time is always right to do what is
right. We should not be afraid to do
what is right. We must answer the call
of history and pass health reform that
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