play, sing, laugh, and dance. Unfortunately, he is immune-suppressed, and will be for the rest of his life. He takes eight medications twice daily, and must adhere to a very strict schedule to control the levels of medication in his system. So little and he is at risk of rejecting his heart. Too much and the medications trigger kidney failure and disable his immune system, making him even more vulnerable to every germ around.

I told Joshua’s story because, quite frankly, if the health care plans being promoted by the administration and by my Democratic colleagues were to become law, I’m not confident that Joshua would be here today. I know that his mother is deeply concerned that, without government-run health care, she might not have had the choice to deliver her baby or to have access to the life-saving medical procedures needed to keep him healthy and alive.

In a government-run bureaucracy, Americans may not have the freedom to make the individual decisions that Brittany Kraft made to keep little Joshua into this world. She was in a position to not accept the word of a doctor and was able to search across the Nation for a better chance at life for her unborn son.

While some maintain that Americans like Brittany can stay on their private plans to keep government out of Joshua’s health care, they are not considering the far-reaching implications of the government plan. A government-run plan means bureaucrats make the decisions and that private insurers will be forced to follow suit to remain competitive.

There is valid concern that otherwise healthy people will flock to the cheaper government plan and that sick people will try to stay on private plans, putting private insurers out of business.

Joshua’s story puts all of this in a crystal-clear context for me, and I urge all of my colleagues to remember Joshua when we go back home for the August recess and talk to our constituents about health care reform. Any reform must include freedom for individuals and for their doctors to make their own personal health decisions.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASCRELL. This is a golden opportunity right after we’ve heard what we’ve just heard. We are empathetic, but we want to dispel the misinformation. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I would like to talk to our constituents about health care reform. Any reform must include freedom for individuals and for their doctors to make their own personal health decisions.

I want to be on the side of those who are going to support folks like this. I do not want to be on the side of those who will perpetuate the support of insurance companies, and that’s what we’re talking about here. Over the next several months, that’s what we will continue to talk about.

There was no appeal available, and Jodi was not notified until 6 weeks after she lost coverage, so it was too late for her to be eligible for HIPAA protections related to preexisting conditions. When she finally found insurance, the one mode of insurance that has kept us from slipping over the precipice.

Our bill, America’s Affordable Health Choices Act, will expand access to health care; it will rein in health care costs; and it will end needless rationing in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we are on the verge of something very significant in this body and in this Congress. I am proud to join my colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee here tonight to talk about the prospects of health care reform in this country.

I heard the other day that it was in 1912 that President Teddy Roosevelt first talked about proposing a national health care system for the United States. Today, we’re still the only industrialized nation that doesn’t have health care for all of its citizens. We believe it’s time, almost 100 years later, to try and get this accomplished for the American people.

Now, a little earlier, my colleague from Texas—my colleague, friend and classmate from college—talked about polls that are out this week that indicate that the American people have somehow turned against the President in his quest to provide health care reform in this country. But what he did not mention was the other part of that poll, which said, once people understand what H.R. 3200 does, they overwhelmingly support it.