

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009 through the morning of Friday, November 6, 2009, I could not be present for votes due to a family funeral back in Michigan.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

House Rollcall Vote 832. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 833. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 834. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 835. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 836. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 837. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 838. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 839. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 840. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 841. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 842. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 843. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 844. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 845. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 846. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 847. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 848. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 849. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 850. I would have voted "no."  
 House Rollcall Vote 851. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 852. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 853. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 854. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 855. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 856. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 857. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 858. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 859. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 860. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 861. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 862. I would have voted "yes."  
 House Rollcall Vote 863. I would have voted "yes."

House Rollcall Vote 864. I would have voted "yes."

House Rollcall Vote 865. I would have voted "yes."

House Rollcall Vote 866. I would have voted "yes."

House Rollcall Vote 867. I would have voted "yes."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcalls 896, 897, and 898. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures.

## HONORING LT. FLORENCE BACONG CHOE

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Lieutenant Florence Bacong Choe of San Diego, California. Lt. Choe was a victim of a tragic shooting that occurred at Forward Operating Base Shaheen in Afghanistan's Northern Balkh province on March 27, 2009.

According to friends and family, Lt. Choe was all Navy. She was born at San Diego Naval Hospital and grew up in San Diego, where she graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1991. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in Biology in 1997, she continued her education and received a Masters degree in Public Health Care Administration from San Diego State University in 2001. Following the events of September 11, 2001, Lt. Choe visited the San Diego Navy recruitment office and enlisted as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps.

While serving in her capacity as Healthcare Administrator for Medical and Surgical Services at the National Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, she met her future husband, Lieutenant Commander Chong "Jay" Choe. They were married on June 21, 2004 and in 2006, they welcomed the birth of their daughter, Kristin Bacong Choe.

A dedicated service member, Lt. Choe fulfilled various duties in the Navy Medical Corps in Japan and San Diego before deploying to Afghanistan in May of 2008. It was during this deployment where she made the ultimate sacrifice after a shooter, disguised as an Afghan Army soldier, opened fire and killed Lt. Choe and Lt. J.G. Francis L. Toner IV.

Madam Speaker, for Lt. Choe it was never about self, but about family, friends and country. She dedicated her extensive knowledge about the medical field to provide quality care for the men and women of the U.S. Navy. For her, and the thousands of others who have given their lives in the name of freedom and democracy, I ask that this body continue to do its best to ensure their deaths were not in vain. May God continue to watch over the

family and friends of Lt. Florence Bacong Choe as her memory, passion and dedication to our country continue to live on as we moved forward to a better tomorrow.

## AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Congress has made unprecedented strides this year in the fight to reform our nation's health insurance system and provide coverage to all Americans, and today's vote represents a historic culmination of these vast, collaborative efforts. This transformative bill offers real solutions for Rhode Islanders by providing better access to affordable, quality health care coverage and finally puts America back on the path to an efficient and sustainable health care system.

This summer, I traveled across the district to meet with Rhode Islanders and discuss health reform. I met with constituents who had health insurance all their lives, but then lost it when they were diagnosed with cancer. I met with small business owners who provided coverage for their employees for decades, but were forced to discontinue it when they could no longer keep up with skyrocketing costs. And I met with parents who were desperate to protect their children's health, but feared they would soon run up against lifetime insurance caps.

All of these stories conveyed the same message—health care costs in the United States are rising at an unsustainable rate, and they are placing a huge burden on Rhode Island families, employers and health care providers. This year alone, over 13,000 Rhode Islanders lost their insurance coverage due to rising unemployment. And those who still have coverage are struggling with rising premiums, copays and crushing medical debt. Meanwhile, yearly double-digit premium increases are forcing businesses to choose between keeping their employees' health coverage and keeping their employees.

As a longtime advocate of universal health care, I made a promise to my constituents to change the status quo of health care in America. The time for inaction is over—we must join together to pass this bill.

H.R. 3962 will institute the changes we need to provide more security and stability to Americans who have health insurance, guarantee insurance to the millions who don't, and lower health care costs for our families, businesses and the government.

This legislation builds on the strengths of our current employer-based system by encouraging businesses who offer their own coverage to continue doing so. Americans who don't have coverage through their employer will be able to shop for their choice of a health plan through a new "health insurance exchange," modeled after the tried and true Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which successfully provides coverage for over 9 million federal employees, retirees and their dependents.

Unlike the limited options that are available to most consumers today, the exchange will