

in access to healthcare. Should the act be repealed, there is no planned reform to take its place. We would simply return to the same broken healthcare system and the same failed policies.

Many Americans view Congress as a system that is equally broken. They see that their leaders have an unprecedented opportunity for creating real and lasting change, and instead that chance is being squandered for short-sighted political gain. The GOP-controlled House is unleashing this attack without offering any new solutions. The Republican dismantling of the healthcare bill would be an act of betrayal to the American people who deserve basic health insurance, not election-year politics.

We have just celebrated the Fourth of July and marked the 236th anniversary of American independence. Looking back on our nation's history, there are certain moments that exemplify our evolution toward true democracy. Those are moments of action, not simply a rhetorical commitment to equality. We freed the slaves, extended voting rights to women, passed the Civil Rights Act and the G.I. bill, gave the right to vote to 18-year-olds, created social security and Medicare, and most recently repealed the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Each of these battles faced fierce opposition, but, now that they have been won, they are remembered as a triumph of core American values. Many look back and believe that America's best days are behind us, but I look ahead and see the Affordable Care Act as yet another brick in the wall of American greatness.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans—young, old, rich, and poor—have an unalienable right to healthcare. I ask my colleagues to join me in my pledge to support the Affordable Care Act and to continue efforts to strengthen our healthcare system in years to come.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support the passage of H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act.

A little over two years ago, as our Democratic colleagues were jamming this bill through Congress, their leadership thought they could appease some of the public's outrage by uttering that now famous phrase "we have to pass the bill to know what's in it."

Unfortunately for them, two years have passed and we now have seen what is in the bill—a top down, Washington-centric plan for the future of American's health services. Obamacare expanded and entrenched the worst parts of the American health system: it drives up premiums, reduces competition among insurers, restricts patient choice, further undermines the solvency of Medicare and Medicaid, and raises hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes.

The law creates over a hundred and fifty new boards and offices, each with the authority to manage a piece of American's health care. The bill also gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services 1,700 new or enlarged powers to control American's access to and interaction with their health services. It even mandates that religious institutions violate the basic tenants of their faith by providing coverage for drugs and procedures that they find morally objectionable.

What's more, the law taxes insurers, device manufacturers, and drug manufacturers, driving up the cost of these products. And then, in perhaps the greatest insult, Obamacare

taxes employers for not providing insurance, it taxes people for not having insurance, and then it taxes people for having insurance that is too good.

Mr. Speaker, from its inception, this law has been a failure because it is premised on the misguided idea that a small group of individuals can plan out orderly lives for the rest of us. There is not one person working at the Department of Health and Human Services who knows what it is like to be a family in Bronte, practice medicine in Brownwood, or run a hospital in Andrews. Yet, Obamacare hands the fate of the families, doctors, and hospitals across my district over to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and her staff.

The ACA sets the ideas of this small cadre of Washington insiders ahead of the concerns of my constituents and their caregivers. It was crafted in secret and passed in the dead of night, and its most important details were left up to regulators who are unaccountable to voters. What was a 2,700 hundred page bill has spawned over 12,000 pages of regulations and more are being published every day.

Americans deserve a health care system that is designed with them at the heart of it. House Republicans are committed to enacting sensible reforms that build up the free-market. Solutions like buying insurance across state lines, allowing association health plans, and reforming our out of control tout system are common sense changes that will expand risk pools, lower premiums, and make insurance more affordable for millions of Americans. Our ideas can do this without the thousands of pages of rules and regulations, the hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes, and the mandates imposed by Obamacare.

I urge my colleagues join me in passing H.R. 6079 to repeal this divisive, intrusive, and loathsome healthcare law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 6079 is postponed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4402, NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (during consideration of H.R. 6079), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-590) on the resolution (H. Res. 726) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

VOTE AGAINST THE REPEAL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have just finished part of the debate for legislation that wants to

repeal the Affordable Care Act. I rise today as we conclude and begin to look toward the conclusion of the debate tomorrow to make a public appeal.

When the 1965 Medicare law was written, it was written to save lives. We have statistics that recognize that prior to Medicare, Americans were living 60 years and under. It is well documented that we've extended the lives of senior citizens through Medicare. Now the Affordable Care Act seeks to extend the lives of the sickest of the sick, to extend the lives of children with pre-existing diseases, to extend the lives of individuals who would not have access to insurance, or those families who have been thrown into poverty because of catastrophic illnesses or an accident. We can do better.

This bill is a promise of allowing and providing for all Americans to be insured. This bill cries out for Republicans and Democrats to work together. This bill cries out for saving the lives of Americans who have been falling along the highway of despair and dying.

It is important for us to look for the common and better good, the public good. Save this bill. Vote against the repeal.

DOCTORS CAUCUS SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. ELLMERS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 32 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, it's a pleasure to be on the floor once again to really talk about my favorite subject in Congress, and that is health care.

I am a physician and have been a physician for 36 years. I am a family physician. I still have an active practice and practice when I get a chance, which lately has not been very often.

We'll be talking about ObamaCare, the repeal of ObamaCare, and we'll be talking about Medicare. I say "we." That is only if I'm joined by some of my colleagues who may be making their way here this evening.

I want to in the way of introduction just let everyone understand, Madam Speaker, how we got here in the first place. Why are we here this evening talking about this? Why are we talking about the repeal of ObamaCare?

I take you back to 1965 when there was a recognition that health care insurance was becoming something more than just insurance; that is to say, that insurance, of course, in theory is to protect against catastrophe. We see that, of course, in our homeowners insurance and our car insurance. So it seemed a good idea to have some form of insurance where you would not be bankrupted by a sudden and severe illness and have your lifesavings taken away.

So the idea of insurance came up, and it was mostly a catastrophic policy.