

I want to thank you for allowing us to share their experience and to show our gratitude for a debt which we can never fully repay.

**FOR RUTHANN: PASS THE KEEP YOUR HEALTH PLAN ACT**

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the promises upon which ObamaCare was built are crumbling.

Ruthann from Hickory, North Carolina, is a healthy 61-year-old. Last month, she received this letter from her insurance provider:

Dear Ruthann,

Due to Affordable Care Act regulations, your current . . . medical plan will no longer be offered for 2014 . . . The monthly premium for your new plan will be \$738.05.

Ruthann is right to be frustrated by this news.

Today, she pays \$396 each month for a plan with a lower deductible that covers the services she needs. Paying \$350 more each month is out of the question for Ruthann and her family.

Her next best option under ObamaCare is to pay \$510 a month for a higher deductible plan that will force her to pay out of pocket for some of the basic tests and procedures her current insurance provides.

Ruthann says:

In effect, I am now relegated to a policy that will only be helpful in case of a catastrophic illness resulting in hospitalization.

How is that anything resembling "affordable care?"

**AID TO THE PHILIPPINES**

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm the solidarity between the United States and the Philippines at this tragic time.

As the people of the Philippines rebuild their infrastructure, aid their injured, and mourn their deceased, the U.S. must remain a beacon of international humanitarian leadership.

Since the landfall of Typhoon Haiyan on November 8, 2013, the United States Government has provided over \$20 million in immediate humanitarian assistance, shipping vital necessities like shelter, water, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and over 55 metric tons of emergency food provisions to Tacloban City and other devastated regions.

This aid is desperately needed. The typhoon has impacted 8 million Filipinos and taken the lives of nearly 3,400 people—a number expected to rise.

The tragedy has also touched the 17,000 people of Filipino heritage living in my district in Queens, New York. To them, I offer unwavering support and an unflinching resolve to do everything possible to help those affected overseas.

**GET GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY AND PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK**

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, Americans want Congress to support policies that help put our Nation back to work. Creating jobs is the key to improving our economy.

However, too often, government stands in the way of job creation by imposing costly regulations on businesses and municipalities, creating uncertainty and hindering job growth.

I recently visited a wastewater treatment facility in my district. While there, I learned that new EPA mandates, specifically on wet weather wastewater treatment, will increase costs on Johnson County, Kansas, ratepayers by 25 percent.

New EPA regulations on an energy plant in Kansas City, Kansas, will force the board of public utilities to make modifications—\$250 million in costs—resulting in a 15 to 20 percent monthly increase in the average electric bill to consumers, families, and businesses in Wyandotte County, who are already feeling the crunch of hard economic times.

These regulations are essentially hidden taxes on Kansas families, many of whom are already pinching pennies to pay their bills.

Madam Speaker, regulations do not create jobs. Let's get government out of the way and let's put Americans back to work.

**HONORING COUNCILWOMAN MAXINE HERRING PARKER**

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the life and legacy of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Herring Parker, who passed away suddenly on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

Councilwoman Parker was the epitome of grace, class, and firm yet gentle leadership. With her signature flower lapels to accentuate her immaculate appearance, this soft-spoken leader personified womanhood while serving as a great source of strength for her family and community.

Her love of family was second only to her love of her constituents in Birmingham City Council District 4. Through her 8-year tenure on the city council in Birmingham, Alabama, Councilwoman Parker was best known for her advocacy for environmental justice on behalf of her constituents in north Birmingham. In 2011, as a result of her tireless advocacy, the Environmental Protection Agency began its first major intervention in the area.

Today, that environmental cleanup still exists.

On behalf of our Nation, the State of Alabama, and the city of Birmingham, I am honored to pay tribute to the life and legacy of this phenomenal woman. She was indeed one of the most passionate community servants of her time. Let us all commit to continuing Councilwoman Parker's legacy of passion and concern for others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Herring Parker.

**AID TO THE PHILIPPINES**

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am continuing the mission of mercy that started right after the typhoon hit the Philippines.

Madam Speaker, I am here to express my gratitude to the President of the United States of America. I just heard him speak of how the United States would do all that it can to help the people of the Philippines.

I am also grateful to the members of my community. We have approximately 40,000 persons of Filipino ancestry living in the Houston area. A good many of them are persons that I represent. I am honored to tell you that they are working tirelessly to do all that they can to help their brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

These are difficult times, but I am honored to say it is my belief that, with our help, we will be able to help the people of the Philippines get through this tragic circumstance.

There are two resolutions. H. Res. 404 is sponsored by Members ENGEL and ROYCE, ranking member and chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. H. Res. 408 is sponsored by Members SPEIER and HONDA. I want to compliment them for what they have done.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in continued support of the Affordable Care Act and the promise of high quality, affordable health care for all.

Republicans and right-wing media are obsessed with problems about healthcare.gov. This law is more than just a Web site. It is affordable, quality health insurance for everyone. The majority of Americans who purchase their insurance purchase it outside of the individual market plan. Those individuals who purchase through their employers' offerings will suffer a price increase if the Upton legislation, which will be coming before us shortly,

passes. It is just a means to sabotage the Affordable Care Act, and I will not be in support of it.

There are over 100,000 people who have now been able to obtain insurance under the Affordable Care Act. It is working. We need to work to improve it. I stand ready to do so.

□ 1245

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3080, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013**

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3080) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference requested by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3080 be instructed to recede from disagreement with the provisions contained in title IX of the Senate amendment (relating to reducing the risks to life and property from dam failure in the United States through reauthorization of an effective dam safety program).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since joining the Congress, I have been working across the aisle on a piece of critical legislation, the Dam Safety Act, which gives communities all across America the support they need to ensure that dams have the highest safety standards possible.

Many of these provisions were included in the bipartisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act, known as WRRDA, which overwhelmingly passed the House just a few weeks ago by a 417-3 vote margin.

I certainly want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member RAHALL, and subcommittee Ranking Member BISHOP for their leadership on WRRDA and for working closely with me on this important issue.

With major storms like Irene, Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Lee becoming more and more frequent, I believe Congress needs to place a higher priority on strengthening our infrastructure, particularly on our oldest and often most vulnerable infrastructure—our dams. Should our dam infrastructure fail in the midst of these storms, the effects could be far more catastrophic and immediate than most other components of our States' infrastructure, endangering people's lives, their property and their livelihoods.

Our country has over 87,000 dams, and approximately 10,000 of these dams are what are known as "high-hazard dams." There are dams in virtually every congressional district and community across the country. The failure of any of these high-hazard dams would cause widespread damage and loss of life and, of course, major economic disruption; and approximately 40 percent of these high-hazard dams do not have an emergency action plan. I would like to say that again: more than 40 percent of our most important dams—the high-hazard dams—the failure of which could cause the loss of life or major property damage, do not have an emergency action plan. We live in a world now in which we have these extreme weather events, and you don't want to find out the dam is going to fail when you have a superstorm.

The Hudson Valley—the communities I represent—is home to over 800 dams, and nearly 100 of those dams are known as high-hazard dams, the failure of which could pose a serious risk to the economy and well-being of these communities and families. Unfortunately, during Hurricane Irene, many folks were impacted because of a dam failure. Many of my neighbors in Tuxedo's East Village were devastated when the Echo Lake Dam released an estimated 100 million gallons of water. Some people in Tuxedo reported seeing an 8-foot wall of water rushing towards the town, causing catastrophic damage to the infrastructure and costing millions of dollars in property damage.

For folks like John and Lisa Petriello, who live in the East Village, the failure of this dam flooded their home, cracked their foundation, and ripped the deck off their home. For Gary Phelps, it meant more than \$125,000 in property damage. Then for businesses such as SOS Fuels, it meant their headquarters were condemned. In mere minutes, the flood carried away cars and appliances. Folks lost their furniture, their valuables, and their homes.

From 2005 to 2009, 132 dams failed. So it is critical that every single community across the country be prepared and be protected, and they can be with this program.

This important motion will make the final version of the Dam Safety program even better by authorizing the Dam Safety program at \$9.2 million per year over the next 5 years. This is \$9.2 million which could, itself, be less than

the cost of a single dam failure; yet we know that in just a 5-year period 132 dams failed. The National Dam Safety Program provides vital support to assist States like mine, New York, in developing emergency action plans, in implementing existing dam safety programs, in assisting with the purchase of equipment, and in conducting dam inspections.

For the first time, the Senate provision would provide public awareness and outreach funding, an essential step to ensuring that all citizens understand the need to prepare for, to mitigate for, to respond to, and to recover from dam incidents and failures. It is far past time to start paying attention to a program that can make a real difference in people's lives, especially a program that has been passed on a bipartisan basis since 1974.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The committee supports the National Dam Safety Program. In fact, I commend the gentleman from New York in his freshman term to be working on the Dam Act because, as a freshman several years ago—12 years ago—my first piece of legislation that I authored was the dam bill.

Again, this is a critical program. It saves lives, it protects communities, and that is why we included language in H.R. 3080—to improve the Dam Safety program. There are minor differences between the House and the Senate language. We look forward to working on reconciling those differences as the legislation moves forward; and while we expect we will continue to have some negotiations with the Senate on this issue, I am not opposed to the motion to instruct on this provision.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), my friend, the distinguished ranking member of the committee.

Mr. RAHALL. I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. MALONEY) for offering this motion to instruct and for his leadership on this most vital issue for the safety of the American people. I also want to commend the full committee chairman, Mr. SHUSTER, the ranking member of our subcommittee, Mr. BISHOP, and the subcommittee chairman, Mr. GIBBS, for their tremendous work on the underlying bill and for getting this to the point at which we are today.

Madam Speaker, I am in strong support of the motion to instruct. This motion directs the conferees to recede to the Senate provision that includes the Dam Safety Act of 2013, which reauthorizes the Dam Safety program at reasonable levels.