

them in a positive light. I said one time before that when we did the Medicare bill in 1965, that bill was the start of revising and refinement of that legislation.

I am glad today that we can say 45 million Americans have lived because of Medicare, and my mother, Ivalita Jackson, who I mentioned during the debate, lives because of the Medicare support system. That is why I am so disappointed that Greg Abbott, attorney general from the State of Texas, the State with the most uninsured persons, decided to file such a lawsuit that has no bearing in the Constitution and cannot make any point that this bill will not help Texas and save millions of dollars.

In addition, there are thousands of veterans that are not in TRICARE who will benefit from this health care system. We will fight that lawsuit because it is against the people of Texas.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

KANSAS ECONOMY NOT GOOD

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. The news on the Kansas economy is not good. Our State's unemployment rate rose to 7.1 percent in January. In February, State revenues fell a whopping \$71 million more than expected. We need \$500 million to balance our budget in Kansas in 2010 and 2011. These million-dollar numbers don't mean much up here in Washington, where this Congress continues to rack up trillions in debt obligations as if there are no consequences and money magically appears out of thin air. However, the effects of this thoughtlessness are indeed terrible.

In Kansas, the overwhelming majority of our State budget is comprised of health care and education responsibilities. Many of these responsibilities have been handed down to the States from the Federal Government. Our education system is teetering on the breaking point, with schools facing closure or consolidation and with educators and staff being laid off.

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Services for our State's developmentally disabled and support for our sick and elderly have been cut. Folks in Kansas are hurting. I see their pain when I return from Washington, D.C., every weekend home to Kansas.

In our State, we think differently than they do up here in Washington. We don't spend what we can't afford,

we don't sacrifice long-term prosperity for short-term gratification, we don't sidestep our personal responsibility, and we don't tell other people how to live their lives. It pains me to reflect on all of the bad ideas of this Congress: the stimulus packages, the bailouts, Cash for Clunkers, cap-and-trade, because I know these mistakes are digging us deeper and deeper into a hole. I was one of only 17 members out of 435 to oppose all of these measures, not because I want to obstruct legislation, but because our personal freedom and economic liberty are restricted each time we create obligations we can't pay for.

Kansas, like many States, is constitutionally prohibited from running in the red. When Congress irresponsibly shoulders States with mandates and expenses, it's the States and their taxpayers that suffer because they can't evade fiscal responsibilities like the Federal Government often does.

Last Sunday is the latest and most glaring example of this elitist, Washington-knows-best attitude. On Sunday night, this Congress passed the Obama-Pelosi health care plan along a narrow partisan line against my staunch opposition. This plan, which became law on Monday, is the wrong direction for America for a long, long list of reasons. With our national debt already at more than \$12 trillion, this new plan will drive us further in the hole. The total cost of this health care plan is more than \$1.33 trillion. While this estimate is staggering, it doesn't take into account the almost \$400 billion needed to fix the Medicare payments to physicians—payments that Kansas doctors must receive to avoid a 21-percent cut and keep their doors open.

Furthermore, this cost estimate doesn't account for the \$20 billion that States must expend to implement the Medicaid expansion contained in the health care plan. Kansans can't afford these billions of new costs, but they are required to carry out so-called reforms. Since Kansans can't afford the requirements of this unfunded mandate, we may be forced to take deeper cuts out of our education system and close and consolidate more schools, dimming the light of opportunity for many Kansans.

Washington needs to open its eyes to this gathering storm. Kansans understand that we can't create an entirely new government entitlement program without exploding spending and increasing our national debt. Our history doesn't support the President's list of campaign-style, promise-the-world pledges. This bill will not only seriously injure our health care system, but its tax increases, mandates, and increased bureaucracy will ruin the Kansas economy and jobs.

I will continue the battle in Washington against this attitude that we know best. It threatens the future

prosperity of our future State and Nation. On Monday, I introduced H.R. 4901, legislation to repeal the health care plan we just passed. Only with a total repeal of this budget-busting mistake can we then institute true reforms that will lower health care costs for families and businesses. My legislation will undo what has been done and replace it with something much more based upon common sense and the will of the American people. Only then can we have a health care system that is truly improved. We and other States demand this change for purposes of making sure that prosperity returns to our State.

And Madam Speaker, that's just the way it should be.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Center for Atmospheric Research, or as we back home in Colorado call it, NCAR, on the occasion of their 50th year conducting the climate and weather research that has become an icon of the American spirit of research and a vital part of all of our daily lives.

In the 1950s, the Nation's farmers, the rapidly growing airlines, and other sectors of our industrializing economy needed better weather forecasts. Pollution of the atmosphere was becoming a serious problem in urban areas. Cloud-seeding experiments suggested it might some day be possible to modify or impact certain kinds of weather, but the U.S. atmospheric research community wasn't adequately meeting the challenges of information that the new world of opportunity offered to use.

In 1956, Detlev Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, appointed a committee of distinguished scientists from several disciplines and instructed them to consider and recommend means by which to increase our understanding and control of the atmosphere. In 1958, the committee came back with several findings and recommendations that led to the establishment of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. Solar astronomer Walter Orr Roberts at the University of Colorado was appointed president of UCAR, and the decision was made to call the institute the National Center for Atmospheric Research, which chose a spectacular hilltop in Boulder, Colorado, to call its home in 1960.

This iconic building is not only home to the most advanced weather and climate change research in the world; it