

survey of the impact of the new health care law on employers just last month. The survey shows there is near unanimous belief by employers that the new law will raise employees' premiums. Only 3 percent of employers that responded said they believed the legislative changes would not cause their premiums to rise. This does not demonstrate very much faith in how this is going to benefit them.

One-quarter of respondents believed the bill would raise premiums by at least 3 percent over and above this year's normal rise in costs due to medical inflation.

Last week, there was a PricewaterhouseCoopers report that stated the cost for businesses providing health care coverage to employees will jump by 9 percent next year, in 2011, which analysts predict employers will shift more of the cost to workers next year. For the first time, most of the American workforce is expected to have health insurance deductibles of \$400 or more.

Also, last week, the administration's new regulations on grandfathered health plans were released, outlining the various ways in which existing employer health plans will be forced to change under the new law. According to the Obama administration report, these regulations could result in nearly 7 out of 10 workers—and 80 percent of workers at small businesses; so 80 percent of the workers in our small businesses—would see changes in their plans.

In other words, under the new health care bill, more than half of those who get insurance through their jobs may be forced to change their plans whether they want to or not. Internal administration documents reveal that up to 51 percent of employers may have to relinquish their current health care coverage because of the health care bill—which takes me back again to the statement the President initially made: If you like your health care plan, you can keep it. That simply is not what we are seeing. It is not translating in the real world.

Then, of course, we have the CBO letter that just came out. This is dated June 21—just the day before yesterday. This letter comes from Mr. Elmendorf, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, in responding to the ranking member on the HELP Committee about the high-risk pools. That letter confirms that an additional \$5 billion to \$10 billion would be needed to fully fund all eligible enrollees in the high-risk pool expansion, and, further, that the new high-risk pool program, which was supposed to be providing health insurance coverage to Americans—but to date the government has failed to provide any funding for these new high-risk programs and those with preexisting coverage have not been able to enroll in these new high-risk pools—but, again, coming from the Congressional Budget Office, with these new estimates, in fact, the fund-

ing available for the subsidies is simply not sufficient to cover the costs of all applicants and then the additional cost that is anticipated, an additional \$5 billion to \$10 billion to cover all eligible enrollees.

With new government reports telling us this bill will not reduce the premiums, and with employer groups looking at how they can minimize the hits they are taking under this new law, we have put American businesses, particularly our small businesses, in peril of dropping employees to avoid the \$2,000-per-employee penalty, called the employer mandate. We have put these small businesses in peril of reducing employee wages in order to qualify for small business credits. We have passed a bill that hurts our small businesses during one of the worst economic downturns in the history of our Nation.

Last week, Investor's Business Daily stated that small firms will be even more likely to lose existing plans. In fact—this is their statement—the “midrange estimate is that 66% of small employer plans and 45 percent of large employer plans will relinquish their grandfathered status by the end of 2013.”

So in the worst-case scenario, 69 percent of employers—again, 80 percent of smaller firms—would lose that status, exposing them to far more provisions under the new health care law.

Again, it makes you ask the question: Was this what the President envisioned in health care reform when he said: “If you like what you have, you can keep it”? I think this new law has failed—has clearly failed—to keep the President's promise to the people.

It was for these reasons I objected at the time this bill was moving through the process. I have stood up and strongly supported the efforts of the State of Alaska and other States to strike the most egregious provisions of the law through a multistate lawsuit. Again, it is why I voted to repeal the entire law when we had that opportunity this past March.

This law is not what the American people wanted, and it is not what our President promised. I believe the legislation has to be repealed. It has to be replaced with sensible alternatives that are widely supported. We know what so many of those are: buying across State lines; implementing medical malpractice reform; reimbursing for quality of service, not quantity of service. This is what the people wanted. This is what the American people expected. Yet this is not what was delivered.

It is time to help our economy rather than to kill it with this legislation that was passed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO REGAN MURRAY

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize another of our Nation's great Federal employees. Americans continue to watch closely the efforts in the Gulf of Mexico to clean up the worst oilspill in our Nation's history. That oilspill has been a reminder to all of us just how important clean water is for wildlife, businesses, and our food supply.

The Federal employee I have chosen to honor today designed innovative software to identify risks and solutions to possible attacks against our Nation's water supply.

Dr. Regan Murray is a native of Cincinnati, OH. She holds a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Arizona. After completing her doctorate, she worked in the private sector but soon realized she wanted to make a difference by serving her country.

Then came the attacks of September 11. Shortly after that tragic day, Regan started working at the Environmental Protection Agency as a mathematical statistician.

Looking back at her decision to pursue public service, Regan said:

I wanted to do more meaningful work that directly impacted people's lives.

Regan was instrumental in leading the development team for new software that identifies security vulnerabilities in our water supply and helps devise solutions to make it safer. One of these programs, TEVA-SPOT, helps find the best locations in water utility distribution systems in which to install sensors. Another, called CANARY, is a real-time data analysis program to monitor the sensors and identify contaminants.

Regan attributes her success to a strong background in mathematics. She has said:

Math is the language of science, which is perfect when leading an interdisciplinary group of researchers.

I have spoken often on this floor about the desirability of more of our students, especially women, to consider careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM. Regan is a wonderful example of how someone who studies mathematics can make a real and important difference.

Her story, though, does not end with her success in developing these software programs. Regan also worked hard to build and maintain important relationships with water utilities in order to ensure that these programs would be put to use.

Furthermore, despite her long hours of work for the agency, Regan co-founded a nonprofit that focuses on improving the lives of children affected by HIV-AIDS and poverty in Africa. She visits Zambia annually and has raised thousands of dollars to benefit the schools there.

Outstanding government employees such as Dr. Regan Murray are making a difference each and every day. So many of them also serve as volunteers in their communities and around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Regan Murray and all those working at the Environmental Protection Agency for their hard work and dedicated service on behalf of the American people. They are all truly great Federal employees.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TURKEY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this past weekend, 12 Turkish soldiers were killed by PKK terrorists. Yesterday, another four Turkish soldiers were killed, as well as the innocent daughter of an officer, and according to the Turkish government, the PKK is responsible for this massacre as well.

Our condolences go out to these families and all the people of Turkey. Terrorist assaults are unacceptable wherever they occur in the world, and we all have to fight together against them.

We are reminded of our common bond with Turkey, and our common fight against terrorists and terror wherever we see it. Turkey has been an important ally, a democracy in a troubled region and a force for stability.

We must keep in mind that Turkey has been a member of NATO since 1952. They established a strategic and military alliance with Israel in the 1990s, and now have boots on the ground in Afghanistan helping us there.

For many years, the bond between the United States and Turkey has been strong and unchallengeable. Despite this progress, Turkey's current prime minister is jeopardizing and risking much of what his country and the Turkish people have accomplished over recent decades. Moving Turkey away from the middle and toward a dangerous extremist path cannot possibly be a good course of action for that country.

Prime Minister Erdogan used his vote on the U.N. Security Council to oppose sanctions on Iran. He calls Iranian President Ahmadinejad a friend, while turning away from those in Iran who would promote peace. He has nor-

malized relations with Syria, despite its support for the terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas.

In fact, I was on a visit recently—last year—to Turkey with two other Senators. We joined the prime minister in his conference room. Upon sitting down, he forcefully declared that “Hamas is not a terrorist organization.” That is a deeply troubling statement from a member of NATO.

Hamas has refused to accept the existence of Israel, a country of more than 7 million people, while declaring threats to destroy the country. It has unleashed more than 10,000 rockets on Israeli neighborhoods and threatens to send thousands more.

This group has sent suicide bombers into Israel, who have killed not only Israelis, but Americans also, including people from my State of New Jersey.

What puzzles me most of all is how Prime Minister Erdogan refuses to condemn Hamas for a terrorist organization for engaging in the same murderous activity as the PKK. It doesn't add up. It challenges Turkey's standing across the world.

The PKK is so dangerous to the Turkish people, their economy, and their national well-being for the very same reasons that Hamas is dangerous to Israel.

The prime minister's alignment with the most radical forces in the Middle East is a serious concern for all of us. But the situation is not irreversible.

I hope that Prime Minister Erdogan changes course, rejects his drift toward extremism, and embraces the moderate forces within Turkey and across the Middle East. If Turkey wants the standing and respect that a balanced democratic nation earns, it has to treat all peaceful nations the same and terrorists with disdain.

I was in Turkey some years ago when the PKK—primarily of Kurdish population—was thought to be a concern, but not particularly active in the terrorism that I saw, anyway, in my visit there. But we saw them then putting people in prison because they differed in opinion with the government. I thought that was a sign of censorship that didn't fit the picture, but they knew that in the Kurdish community, there was a lot of resistance to what the Turkish Government was doing.

Now we see that Turkey has 30,000 troops chasing the PKK on the border near Iraq. So it is hard to understand how a nation that has the power that Turkey could have in the Middle East—and in the world generally—is falling prey to identifying one group as friendly and another group—or one group as terrorists in one place and a good-meaning organization in another. Hamas is a terrorist organization, and everybody knows it. They have overtaken the Gaza, and they control all the flow of everything there—arms, et cetera—and maintain an arsenal with which to attack Israel.

We have to let Turkey know this is not a good way for us to continue an

alliance. We have an interest in balance and respect for the countries in the Middle East. So I hope we can continue a long-time, close relationship with this great country and long-time friend.

I close with a wish that in Turkey they will take a second look at the policies they are currently condoning and join with us in the fight against terrorism.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ASIAN CARP FOUND IN LAKE CALUMET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today with a very urgent and critical situation from my home State and the home State of the Presiding Officer and for our Great Lakes in general.

We are just finding out today that a commercial fisherman, contracted by the government to do routine sampling of areas leading into the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan, caught a 34-inch, 20-pound Asian carp in Lake Calumet, approximately 6 miles downstream from Lake Michigan, past the barriers, and on its way to Lake Michigan. This is the first Asian carp found past the electric barriers. It represents a very serious risk to the Great Lakes' ecosystem and, frankly, to our way of life in the Great Lakes region. These fish are huge, and they are able to invade the Great Lakes. They could easily destroy our \$7 billion fishing industry and our \$16 billion recreational boating industry. Invasive species in the Great Lakes have already contributed to significant declines in fish populations. The Asian carp could completely unwind the food chain, with devastating effects for our existing fish populations. We heard in testimony before my Subcommittee on Water and Power that these fish, which can get up to 90 or 100 pounds, effectively have no stomach. They eat all the time. They eat up everything in the food chain, leaving other fish to die throughout the Great Lakes. It is extremely serious.

We have been working on this issue for a number of years with electric fencing and most recently poisoning a part of the waters in the Chicago channels to determine whether there are any of these Asian carp that have come up the Mississippi River and into the Illinois River. At the time, they didn't find anything. Unfortunately, today they did, and it was well past the electric barriers and fences for the first time.

Let me share with you one story from a few years ago that reflects what