

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I recently stood with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to call for a National Emergency Summit on Urban Violence. In light of the verdict in Florida, the Trayvon Martin verdict, I wanted to talk about the violence that has recently happened in my district and why we need to do something about mental illness.

We had an incident where a man killed his pregnant girlfriend, the mother, and her 10-year-old brother, and then went into a neighboring police station and asked for the police to shoot him.

We had another incident, a young Somali boy, only 5 years old. The people that lived in the apartment complex loved to see this little boy ride his bicycle around. A 13-year-old got into a disagreement with him and beat him in the head until he died, and he left him in a backyard.

Then we had another recent drive-by shooting in my district where the assailant said he shot the wrong guy, and the wrong guy was an innocent 12-year-old boy.

We need to do something about mental illness and about violence that is gripping this country. It is clear that there are many people who due to mental illness do not have the ability to calmly and rationally resolve their differences with others. Instead, they turn to violence.

Let's do something about the rising violence in our urban communities.

EMPLOYER AND INDIVIDUAL DELAYS PROVIDE FAIRNESS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the President made inaccurate promises when he shoved a 2,000-page health care takeover bill through both Houses of a Democrat-controlled Congress. Now he is usurping power again by choosing to relieve employers from the higher taxes and increased government regulations mandated by the Unaffordable Care Act that still requires individuals to suffer. For a President who says he is for fairness, this decision protects Big Business and targets American families, taking more from their paychecks.

House Republicans are acting to protect every American from the unworkable provisions by voting to repeal both the employer and individual mandates. ObamaCare is an unworkable, unaffordable law that destroys jobs, disrupts the doctor-patient relationship, and promotes uncertainty for future generations. As a proponent of limited government, I fully remain committed to defunding, dismantling, or repealing ObamaCare to provide the fairness necessary to allow every American family to make their own health care decisions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, the United States Postal Service continues to try to fix themselves financially with service cuts that will undermine the agency's viability, not strengthen it.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of my colleague Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO's legislation, the Protect Overnight Delivery Act, to prevent the Postal Service from weakening delivery standards.

Eliminating overnight delivery would threaten hundreds of postal facilities across the Nation, including the William Street facility in my western New York community.

Madam Speaker, while the Postal Service is certainly in need of reform, this is the wrong way to do it. Once again, the Postal Service is making ill-conceived decisions that hurt both workers and consumers.

OBAMA'S UNFAIRNESS

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss today's fairness. Earlier this month, the Obama administration announced it would be delaying the business mandate in the President's health care law.

Setting aside for a moment the dubious legal authority the executive branch is using to pick and choose which parts of the law will be enforced and which won't, this action represents unfair treatment in the implementation of ObamaCare. In delaying the business mandate for a year but not the individual mandate, the President is choosing to protect Big Business from ObamaCare, but not hardworking individuals and families. In explaining this delay, White House officials repeatedly said the President was "listening" to business.

Madam Speaker, why isn't the President "listening" to the American people? Why is Big Business getting a break while individual Americans get the short end of the stick? Maybe this is what happens when Big Business has access to the White House and individual Americans can't even take a tour.

Today, we will take action to protect all Americans by delaying both the employer mandate and the individual mandate. Our work to dismantle ObamaCare is part of our ongoing fight to spur economic growth, create jobs, and provide a more secure future for all Americans.

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THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this 38th attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Our country needs affordable care. My constituents in Queens, New York, need affordable health care. Right now, only 17,000 New Yorkers buy their own health insurance because the insurance premium rates are too high, and 2.6 million New Yorkers do not have health insurance. Nationwide, 13 million people are uninsured.

The most exciting part is that ObamaCare is already working. As of this morning, the new, approved health care premiums available in the New York State health care exchanges for 2014 are, on average, 50 percent lower than this year's insurance premiums. That is not even taking into account individuals who can take advantage of other Federal subsidies and that everyone with a health insurance plan will be able to gain access to basic, free preventative health care services.

I want to thank New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature for their leadership on this issue.

With all the partisan sniping across the aisle about health care, we cannot lose sight of why our country needs ObamaCare. Better access to affordable, preventative health care is essential to reining in health care costs; and more importantly, it's essential for a healthy America.

INDIVIDUALS NEED RELIEF FROM OBAMACARE, TOO

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, the record is clear—ObamaCare has been a train wreck since its inception. This latest delay is a testament to the poor planning and widespread mismanagement by President Obama and his administration.

President Obama's decision to delay the employer mandate comes after months of promises from the Obama administration claiming that implementation was on schedule and that the law was working the way it was supposed to. Every day, I hear from constituents who remain strongly opposed to the government's takeover of their health care. Delaying the employer mandate for 1 year is a step in the right direction, but individuals need relief also.

We must protect all Americans from the unworkable mandates of the President's health care plan by voting to delay both the individual and employer mandates. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2668, and I urge its swift adoption.

COMMUNITY PARKS REVITALIZATION ACT

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Community Parks Revitalization Act.

This bipartisan legislation would provide matching funds and a new loan program to assist our communities in developing and redeveloping parks and recreational facilities.

As a former mayor, I have seen firsthand the value that investing in parks brings to our communities. When we make investments in our parks, it leads to healthy, vibrant neighborhoods in which businesses want to invest and families want to live. Our parks and recreational centers are also instrumental in helping to achieve the important national goal of increasing exercise and in providing recreational opportunities for our youth and disabled or injured veterans.

The Community Parks Revitalization Act has the support of many national organizations, including the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects, and it has strong bipartisan support in the 113th Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in strengthening our community parks.

NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, one of the best parts of my job is meeting with Montana students. These young people are the future leaders of our State, and it's exciting to hear about their ideas and aspirations for making their communities and our State a better place to live and to work.

As a father of four and personally, myself, as a product of Montana's public schools—in fact, from kindergarten in Bozeman all the way through college at Montana State University—I know that Montana's students have so much potential. Our oldest daughter, Annie, will be graduating from Montana State University this fall with a degree in elementary education. That's why it's critical that they have access to quality education and training that prepares them to pursue careers and goals they are passionate about.

We must work towards commonsense reforms that empower our schools and teachers to innovate and address our students' unique needs. No two students or schools are the same. More local and State input and less Federal bureaucracy will help provide our educators with the flexibility they need to help our kids learn. I am looking forward to our upcoming debate on how we can work to improve our education system.

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTER

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, this week, over 650,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense are required to begin taking involuntary furlough days. Over 25,000 of these employees reside in San Diego. This represents about a 20 percent pay cut for the next 3 months for these public servants. This pay cut is in addition to the fact that Federal employees have not received their standard salary adjustments for the past 3 years.

These salary cuts have a very damaging effect on the employees and on their families, an effect which should be clear to all of us; but they also have disastrous secondary effects. I am worried particularly about the impact these cuts will have on the recruitment and retention of the civilian workforce. As one of my San Diego constituents in the Federal workforce said:

Furloughs send a very demoralizing and humiliating message to all Federal employees, one that suggests that we are not valued and that the work we do is not valued.

We must do better. We can start by appointing budget conferees immediately.

IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY ACT AND FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, the House will vote today to delay the implementation of both the employer and the individual health insurance mandates dictated by ObamaCare. The administration announced by way of a blog post that it could not implement the employer mandate by its legal deadline despite repeated assurances that everything was okay.

It is completely unfair for the administration to grant an extension to businesses but not to individual tax-paying Americans. House Republicans are fighting for all Americans. There is still much work to be done. ObamaCare continues to be a drag on our economic recovery, leading to fewer choices and more expensive insurance premiums. I urge the support of these bills and the complete repeal of the President's health care law.

CANCER CARE

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the benefits of cancer research and the importance of funding for the National Institutes of Health. In my home State of Iowa alone, 17,480 people will be diagnosed

with cancer this year and 6,420 will lose their battles with this disease. Like every State, Iowa receives essential funding from the NIH.

NIH funds lifesaving medical research that is leading to the development of new and better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer and other diseases. The research takes place at thousands of universities, hospitals, cancer centers, and laboratories across the country, including at the University of Iowa's Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition to the obvious benefits of combating cancer and so many other diseases, NIH funding supports economic activity and jobs, something we often don't think about. In 2012, NIH funding supported 3,934 jobs in Iowa alone.

Funding for cancer research and the NIH, I believe, must be a top priority. I urge Congress to support this lifesaving research.

OBAMACARE PERMANENT DELAY

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. The administration proved what local employers have been telling me for months—ObamaCare is bad policy.

Even after 3 years of preparation, this law is far from ready for implementation and has proven to be unaffordable. Just today, we learned that we have already paid an additional \$1 billion in new taxes on the medical device tax alone. If there is a delay enacted for businesses, then there needs to be a Hoosier delay for hardworking taxpayers as well. After all, the American people are the building blocks for our companies. These individuals include parents, young people, single moms, veterans, and seasoned employees. Together, they form our Nation's workforce.

In our district in northern Indiana, I have heard from schools, restaurants, manufacturers, and small business owners who strongly oppose this mandate. At the very least, news of this delay is a relief, but the future is still clouded with uncertainty as long as this law exists. Hoosiers know that a 1-year delay of the employer mandate, and even of the individual mandate, is no more than a Band-Aid.

ObamaCare is a roadblock for American companies. According to small businesses in the Second District, this law is the number one job killer. That's why I ask for the President to permanently delay the health care law.

SEQUESTER

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares this week to vote for the 38th time to take patient protections away from working families