

that comes from Los Angeles, California:

"It took 3 hours, but Andrew Stryker managed to be among the first people to purchase health insurance through ObamaCare's new insurance markets. Stryker is 34 years old and lives in Los Angeles, where he now does freelance work." He pays premiums of \$600 to keep his COBRA plan that he had on his job, which he left 4 years ago. He is diabetic and has been denied insurance because of a preexisting condition. Mr. Stryker says, although it took him 3 hours, this plan is now saving him over \$6,000 a year. And in his words, "For that, I would have waited all day."

A lot of us would.

EXCHANGE LAUNCH

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind the American people why we are here. We are here because the President and the Senate Democrats have refused to negotiate.

We learned yesterday and even today about the challenges of signing up for ObamaCare. Information technology, I believe, will be ObamaCare's Achilles' heel. Many people went on healthcare.gov. They were greeted with messages, "Please wait here until we send you to the login page," or, "The system is down at the moment."

Yes, glitches can be expected whenever a new system is started, but ObamaCare is simply not ready. Americans aren't ready. They weren't ready for the employer mandates. They are not ready for the individual mandate. We are not ready for IPAB. We are not ready for the medical device tax. We are not ready for the cuts to Medicare or to our providers. It will harm the economy. It already has.

What we are ready for is for the Senate and the President to negotiate, and we are ready to reopen our government when they do.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare, on its first day, is emblematic of what we can expect from ObamaCare in the future, already proving to be a logistical as well as an economic disaster.

Businesses are cutting back on full-time employees. Some people are losing their jobs. Many are losing their hours as well. For businesses with less than 50 employees, ObamaCare has become a massive disincentive for growth.

The cost of health insurance premiums are skyrocketing. One report says people in Louisiana who don't get Federal subsidies will see dramatically higher rates for average coverage. In

fact, they will now be paying more for health insurance than the cost in most other States.

The implementation of ObamaCare is proving to be the train wreck that even Democrats have come to expect. And that is leaving our economy on edge, with job creators wondering how they will make it through more taxes, more mandates and regulations.

ObamaCare is a devastating threat to our economy, and it needs to be stopped now.

□ 1900

OBAMACARE DISCRIMINATES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare discriminates. It gives special treatment to special friends of the administration—1,200 waivers of special folks, but not waivers for everybody.

It also treats Big Business better than it does individual Americans. It delays ObamaCare 1 year for Big Business, but not individuals. That is discrimination.

Treat everybody the same. Waivers for all or no waivers for anyone. You've delayed implementation for 1 year for Big Business; delay it for individuals as well.

It's interesting. If ObamaCare is good for everybody, why isn't Obama under ObamaCare, and his staff, and the Cabinet?

Put everybody in ObamaCare. That is why we have this fight, because ObamaCare discriminates, and it's a fight worth having.

Defund it until everybody is treated fair. No discrimination.

And that's just the way it is.

THIS BODY MUST DO BETTER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it shouldn't come as a surprise that we have different ideas on the different sides of the aisle here.

Republicans believe in a smaller government, a less intrusive government, and so it shouldn't be a surprise when we step forward with ideas on budgeting, on spending, that we would want to pick and choose things that we think are appropriate for the government to do, and not fund the things that are inappropriate.

That's the situation, as we view it, with the Obama health care takeover. We see that it doesn't work. We see it's going to be horrendously more expensive.

What really disappoints me though, observing the last few days, as a newer Member here, is the decorum on this House floor, the yelling, the name-calling, the pointing, even the way the desk was addressed here earlier today.

I mean, I think the American people expect a discourse that is a little more honorable than all the yelling and the name-calling.

So if we want to have a discussion, which Republicans do, with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, with the Senate, with the White House, we need to do it in a way that actually makes it attractive to talk to each other.

I like to watch motor sports. And if everybody on the racetrack was bashing each other off the track, you wouldn't have a race anymore. There'd be nothing to watch. You wouldn't have a sport. You wouldn't have a game.

This is much bigger than those types of games here, yet we don't have a discussion, we don't even have a way to have a discourse with all the name-calling.

So I'd ask for this body to do better.

OBAMACARE IS A CIVIL RIGHT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I heard the story of a mother who had lost her son, who had a preexisting condition and was not able to get insurance—only when a benevolent hospital took him in and determined, at the time, that he had Stage 3 cancer, because he had no insurance, because he had needed a colonoscopy.

If he had had ObamaCare, he would have had the ability, at least, to get insurance without worrying about the preexisting condition.

Emotions are high, but for the right reason. There is no reason that eliminating ObamaCare, as is being discussed on this floor, should be tied to opening the government back up. All the Republicans have to do is to pass, with the Democrats, a clean CR so that people might live.

Their story is like taking away the civil rights laws that President Johnson helped pass because they did not like it. They would hold up the government and close the government.

For me, this is civil rights for all Americans—to have the right to live, to have the right to have health insurance. It is not a budget issue. It is an issue to be done down the road. Vote for a clean CR.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of emotions because this is about life and death.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here this evening with my colleagues to host the Republican leadership hour. We are going to talk to