

SUPPORTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In the past, no group has been more negatively impacted by rising health care costs than seniors.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, some of the financial burdens have been alleviated. The Affordable Care Act has already helped to close the Medicare part D doughnut hole by saving 6.6 million seniors more than \$7 billion on prescription drugs. It also provides a free annual wellness visit and coverage for key preventive services that many seniors avoid because of high cost.

As for waste and fraud in Medicare, the Affordable Care Act strengthens the system and gives more effective tools to identify and remove the unnecessary costs.

The Affordable Care Act not only provides essential quality care; it does so while lowering costs for our aging population. I am proud to stand with my colleagues and the President to support the Affordable Care Act.

TRAIN WRECK OF PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN CONTINUES

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the train wreck of the President's health care plan continues. The President promised that "if you like your plan, you can keep it," period. But millions of Americans are getting cancellation letters this month.

Mia from Taneytown in Carroll County wrote my office saying:

I recently became aware that my insurance will terminate the plan I currently participate in. I was told to find another insurance plan that fits my budget and needs. The problem is none of the insurance carriers can compare to the quality and cost of my current insurance. However, I am being told that I am being forced by law to pick a new plan, or else I will be penalized by the U.S. Government. I have never been more disgusted with my government than I am now. My husband and I work very hard for the money we have. We have a daughter who is 8 months old, but my premium costs to cover myself and her will almost triple. How is this affordable? It is hard enough to pay a mortgage, gas, and day-to-day living.

Mr. Speaker, the President misled the American people. Mia lost her plan, and her insurance costs tripled. Americans deserve better.

RECOGNIZING VALIANT SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINERS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of H.R. 2189, a bipartisan bill that will finally recognize the valiant service of Merchant Mariners that operated domestically during World War II.

It has been my honor for the past three Congresses to introduce legislation that would recognize these brave Americans and correct an injustice that has remained for over 70 years.

I would like to congratulate a wonderful North Carolinian, Mr. Don Horton, who has been the driving force behind my legislative effort for the past three Congresses. Tragically, Don's commitment to this legislation was due to the loss of his brother, William Lee Horton, Jr., on 31 March 1942 as a result of a German U-boat attack on his tugboat off the coast of Virginia.

Many of the Horton family served on these tugboats and barges during World War II in support of the war. Don Horton has become the foremost expert on this forgotten segment of World War II and has worked tirelessly to see mariners like his brother gain the recognition as veterans that they rightly deserve and earned through service to their country.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, after 70 long years, these mariners have a chance to receive the recognition they deserve for their service to our country. I implore my colleagues in the Senate to consider this legislation as quickly as possible and support its passage.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are looking for results from Washington, D.C. Even though we have a divided government, I still believe we can and must work together to solve the many challenges facing our great Nation.

More than anything, we must work together in the coming months to help put more Americans back to work and kick-start our sluggish economy. We can work together to reform our Tax Code and make it simpler and easier to understand and comply with. We can work together to build a national energy policy that safely utilizes all of America's resources, putting people to work and keeping energy costs down.

We can work together to support education, research, infrastructure, immigration reform. Yes, and even pass a farm bill.

We can work together to reform important programs like Medicare and Social Security so we can preserve and protect them for the future generations while balancing our budget and controlling spending.

Today, our economy may be stagnant, but our optimism and determination have never been greater. Let's work together to renew the prosperity and opportunity for all Americans in our great Nation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Unconscionably, domestic violence has reached pandemic proportions, affecting one out of every three women in the United States.

As an emergency medicine doctor, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of domestic violence. I have treated the beaten and bruised bodies of countless women who were victims of domestic violence, and I have been inspired by their unbroken spirits.

I am proud of the work that many are doing to prevent domestic violence and keep women safe throughout my district and our country, like Shelter from the Storm in the Coachella Valley.

Domestic violence is a leading threat for women. On average, four women are murdered by their intimate partner every day in the United States. A woman is battered in the U.S. every 15 seconds. That equals 240 domestic violence episodes in one hour.

No woman should ever suffer domestic violence, and those who are victimized should know that they have access to the care and services they need to seek justice. We must continue to work together to take steps to prevent domestic violence, stand up for those who are victims, and hold perpetrators accountable to the full extent of the law.

To my patients in my district and women victims across the country, please, never give up.

□ 1245

KEEPING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today having come from a hearing in which we heard about some of the issues with Veterans Affairs, such as \$762,000 spent on a conference while our veterans had to wait for their disability claims to be processed.

In my home State of North Carolina, the delay is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. We are having families that are having to wait almost 2 years to have their claims processed. This is unacceptable. If it were just an extravagant conference, we could overlook it, yet a senior official in an email says, "Well, bottom line, you don't have to worry about a thing."

Mr. Speaker, it has come to the time where we can tell our veterans they don't have to worry about a single thing, where their claims are processed, and where we truly keep our commitment to our veterans.