the pain of government health care, and here is what some of them have sent me from my congressional district in Texas.

Billie from Spring, Texas, writes:

I can’t afford what ObamaCare will cost. How can it be better? My company pays part of my insurance, and the insurance is good. Why do I have to change to something I cannot afford? It doesn’t make any sense. My doctor told me a lot of them will retire rather than deal with this horrible health care law. The quality of doctors will diminish. I thought the government was for the people.

Well, Billie, apparently the government is for the government and not for the people.

James from Humble, Texas, says:

Please defund ObamaCare. My employer has already informed us our health care will be changing, and this comes at a very bad time for my family. We will be forced into exchanges and employer informs us the company has the right to end subsidized retiree health care in the future. Higher costs, higher deductibles, and total confusion. This will have a negative impact on our economic future as we enter our retirement years.

Small business owner Terrence Wolfe from Humble says:

Defund ObamaCare before we collapse our entire economy. We cannot afford it as a Nation, and I cannot afford it as a small business owner. I cover 80 percent of the premium for all 10 of my employees. All of us are bracing for at least a 20 percent to 40 percent increase.

Shannon Rudd from Humble, Texas, says:

I cannot believe ObamaCare is still a reality. The government has no business managing health care insurance. Furthermore, they have no right to tell Americans if they can or cannot have a procedure performed once the insurance is forced on individuals. Forcing people to pay a fine if they choose not to have health care is asinine and the furthest thing from democracy.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Shannon is on to something. It is not a criminal penalty; it is a tax. If it were a fine, you could have due process, you would be presumed innocent, your day in court, your jury trial, but under a tax, you have to pay the tax first and then figure out the IRS’s way to get it back. Good luck with that.

Sharon Coyle from Spring, Texas, says:

Now what? We may get the delay in ObamaCare mandate after all because of the cluster it has turned out to be, but what about those of us who have insurance through our employers?

My gold level of my insurance no longer allows me to participate in the flex spending account. I ultimately ended up having to go to a lower plan because the insurance is forced on individuals. My deductible is higher and now my copays are higher. I will be paying at least $2,000 to $3,000 more per year on top of the $7,200 I already pay. My copays are higher.

Robert Arnold from Humble, Texas, says this:

It is incomprehensible that we put men on the Moon in 1969, but we can’t get into a $400 million Web site to purchase insurance.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, those glitches seem to be a real problem.

Kenneth Earl Beeney from Kingwood, Texas, writes:

Now when I look at what is available with OB Care, the plan that is closest to ours is going to cost $745 a month. This is absurd. It does not look like we will be able to keep our current policy, so we are being forced to pay $400 per month for coverage and the deductible will be $12,000.

I really like my current policy and the premium fits our budget. What can be done?

Mr. Speaker, this is bad news for the middle class.

Merin Porter from Houston, Texas, says:

I am the sole breadwinner for a family of five. I am eligible for affordable insurance through my employer; however, my family coverage is prohibitively expensive—$18,000 per year, or more than 30 percent of my take-home pay. As you can imagine, it is one of the hardest adjustments for us. Food, shelter, and clothing were a luxury and not a necessity.

Mr. Speaker, Merin should not have to choose between feeding the family and being forced into ObamaCare. Why has the government done this to the people? My daughter said it best, “I thought the government was for the people.” Well, apparently not.

And that’s just the way it is.

HONORING TOM GARDNER III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career and acknowledge the retirement of Tom Gardner III.

A community leader, pastor, and family man, Tom served as chief executive officer of the Montgomery Community Action Committee for the past 39 years. For his dedicated service to the city of Montgomery and the State of Alabama, I pay tribute today to the life work of Tom Gardner III.

Tom was born to Reverend Tom Gardner, Jr., and Mrs. Effie Neil Gardner on January 22, 1946, in Hope Hull, Alabama.

Tom served his country in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. As a result of his exemplary service and sacrifice, he received the Purple Heart in 1967 and the Bronze Star in 1968.

Tom received a bachelor’s of science degree from Alabama State University and a master’s of public administration from Troy University.

Tom is married to Mrs. Estella Gardner and is the loving father of two children, Debrina and Jonathan, and three grandchildren, Jaeda, Londyn, and Gavin.

In addition to his strong commitment to family, Tom has also demonstrated his dedication to his faith in God. Carrying on the pastoral legacy of his father, Tom currently serves as pastor of Beulah Primitive Baptist Church in his hometown of Hope Hull, Alabama.

Tom has over 30 years of managerial experience and oversight of Federal, State, and local grants. He administered the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, the Community Housing Development Organization, the Housing Counseling Agency, and the Affordable Housing Development Program.

Tom has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to community service throughout his life by his participation in community organizations. Tom has dedicated the past 39 years of his career to the Montgomery Community Action Committee. He began his career at the Montgomery Community Action Committee in 1974 as director of personnel and served as the equal opportunity officer until 1975. He was promoted to chief executive officer of the Montgomery Community Action Committee in 1976, where he served until his retirement in October 2013.

On a personal note, I know Tom Gardner as my beloved “Uncle Sonny” and my mother’s youngest brother. I am blessed to have grown up with his wise counsel and guidance since the death of my grandfather. Uncle Sonny has served as the patriarch of the Gardner family. There is not a problem, nor a challenge, nor a concern that my cousins and I have not sought his wisdom and comfort. I am so proud of his 39-year career heading the Montgomery Community Action Committee, and I am equally proud of my Uncle Sonny’s continued dedication to the well-being and spiritual health of our family. Thank you, Uncle Sonny.

On behalf of the Seventh Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and retirement of Tom Gardner III. His life is a testament to his strong work ethic and passion for faith, family, and community.

OBAMACARE VIOLATES THE ORIGINATION CLAUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in a bold and agile display of legal sophistry, United States Supreme Court Justice John Roberts upheld the Affordable Care Act by declaring it a tax, while failing to address whether the tax complied with the Origination Clause of our Constitution.

The case of Sissel v. The United States Department of Health and Human Services is pending before the D.C. Court of Appeals and headed to the Supreme Court. Sissel challenges the constitutionality of roughly 20 tax increases that fund government-run health care.

Constitution article I, section 7 is the Origination Clause. It states, in part, that “all Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House.”