

A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.

My friend Amo Houghton is a formidable force.

Although The Faith & Politics Institute will miss his spirit and wisdom that he brought to the board of directors, his legacy and inspiration will always live on, as the Honorable Amory Houghton, Jr.'s status is now elevated to cochair emeritus for life.

OBAMACARE IS A FAILURE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, does anyone across the fruited plain think that ObamaCare has been a success?

Two of its major objectives were to bring down the costs of health care and increase the accessibility. Well, I ask you: Does anybody know anyone whose premium has decreased? My own 30-year-old daughter's premium went from \$160 to \$270. Indeed, our office is besieged with people whose premiums have skyrocketed.

And then let's talk about accessibility. We hear 5.9 million policies have been canceled. And what do we hear from the Obama folks about the enrollment? 200,000 people or so. Of course, they keep the numbers kind of fuzzy. It is kind of like the unemployment numbers. You can't quite tell what they really are. But the reality is the cancellations are going about 100 miles an hour and enrollment is going at about a 20-mile-an-hour pace.

ObamaCare has been a failure. We need to defund it. We need to start all over again. We need to have health care that is patient-centered and market-based that does in fact bring down the cost of medicine and make it more affordable and more accessible to the American people.

AN OBAMACARE SUCCESS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the gentleman and say that I walked into the Kiwanis pancake breakfast in Berea, Ohio, the other day and out of a crowd of probably a thousand people, a gentleman said, Congresswoman, Congresswoman, and came up to me and threw his arms around me. He said:

Thank you so much for voting for the Affordable Care Act. I just got a plan 10 times better than I ever had—ten times better. My wife had a \$5,000 deductible and I had a \$5,000 deductible. I am a small business person. I now have a \$1,000 deductible. I have much better coverage. Preventive health care is covered. I cannot believe how much better my plan is than what I had before.

It made me feel so good.

We had breakfast together. The pancakes and sausage were great, by the way.

It made me feel so good because I knew that in his business as a shoemaker and his wife as an alterations person in that same business, they would be protected as they grow older before they go onto Medicare. They have worked so very hard in their lives.

They went to the Web site, and guess what? It worked.

And so across America there are small business people saying thank you to those in Congress who voted for an Affordable Care Act that is working.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support volunteer fire and emergency services organizations by cosponsoring a bill introduced today by Pennsylvania Congressman LOU BARLETTA, H.R. 3685, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

This bill ensures that emergency services volunteers are not counted as full-time employees under the employer mandate in the Affordable Care Act. Because of the nominal fees that at times are given to volunteers and the rate at which the new definition of "full-time" is calculated, many volunteer companies are concerned about having to provide health coverage for firefighters or face a penalty. The IRS has been asked to rule on this determination, yet Congress has not received a response.

Having served as a firefighter and EMS volunteer since 1983, I know as well as anyone just how crushing this impact would be for these volunteer organizations. Fire department and municipality support for fire and EMS volunteers is important; however, incentives given to these community volunteers do not change the fact that these are volunteers serving their neighbors.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in support of the commonsense effort by cosponsoring H.R. 3685.

THE TRAIN WRECK 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 gentleman from Georgia was absolutely right; the train wreck of ObamaCare continues.

This week, we have three pieces of news. First of all, people going to the exchanges that were told they qualify for Medicaid really aren't. In fact, they won't find out until months past January 1 that they won't have insurance.

In the State of Maryland, 25,000 people got cancellation notices and 3,700 have signed up so far on the

ObamaCare exchange, leaving tens of thousands of Marylanders without insurance on January 1.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania just mentioned, volunteer firefighters are now given a mandate that their volunteer fire companies have to buy insurance for them because now, under strange definitions, they are considered employed. Mr. Speaker, my volunteer firefighters aren't employees. We are going to drive volunteer fire companies out of business.

This train wreck continues.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better.

A LESSON IN HOW FAR THIS COUNTRY HAS MOVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful to hear from my dear friend—and I do mean dear friend. I think greatly of Ms. KAPTUR. I was glad to hear somebody has gotten a good report on the so-called Affordable Care Act.

We are continuing to hear sad story after sad story of people continuing to be laid off, people continuing to be cut from full-time to part-time and people being forced onto food stamps because they just can't make it with the loss of income going from full-time to part-time, the loss of their insurance.

And as people have now realized across the country, though we were told there were 30 million without insurance, it looks like by next fall, November of next year, there will probably be many more than that that lost their insurance even though they liked it and wanted to keep it. Because, as we know, if you like your insurance, there is a good chance you won't be able to keep it.

There is a story from December 11, "Four in Ten Would Rather Pay Fine Than Buy Insurance."

I am sure there are people like me. You take a look at how much the insurance is going to cost, how much it has skyrocketed several times more than what I have been paying if I were going to keep insurance with the deductible now skyrocketing and dramatically increasing under the potential policies, higher than what I have now, and when I look at the costs several times higher than what I have now, and since I am not accepting the subsidy and I am not paying into the attending physician for that care, I will be going without insurance.

It has been amazing to me how many in the liberal media—and I say "media" loosely, because they are really in the business of trying to protect this administration and twist stories any way they can to make anyone who objects to something this administration has done look bad, so I will loosely