

these tough decisions. We ought to be making it easier for them. That is our job. There are no excuses. I intend to work with our colleagues to see if this is a possibility.

While Senator WARREN is here, I wish to engage the Senator from Massachusetts and yield to her for an answer. As we sat on the Special Committee on Aging, we heard the testimony of how dire, on the line, and on the razor's edge the income is for senior citizens with these Social Security benefits. When that does not keep up with the cost of living—surely there is a cost-of-living increase in one year over the other, but if their Social Security checks don't reflect that, does that not invite a tremendous hardship on that elderly person?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, the answer is yes, it does. Senator NELSON has put his finger on a very serious problem; that is, every year because of policies made here in the Senate, we do a calculation of cost-of-living changes for Social Security. The problem is that calculation for cost-of-living changes is based on only about one-quarter of the population. It is not based on the whole population, and it is certainly not based just on those who receive Social Security.

We know from independent analysis that costs have gone up for seniors, but because of the policies made here in Congress, there will be no cost-of-living increase for seniors this year. That means they face high costs. Yet, at the same time, they are going to have a flat income.

The proposal here to give them a one-time payment of about \$581 is enough to pay 3 months' worth of food bills for the average senior. It is enough to help cover the costs of prescription drugs that are not covered by Medicare. These are significant differences for seniors who most need it, and I appreciate Senator NELSON coming here early to talk about and raise this important issue. He is exactly spot on about the difficulty with this issue.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Florida has expired.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Therefore, I conclude by resting the case. If the cost of every person's daily living is in fact going up and yet our formula shows that they get no cost-of-living adjustment, is that not putting a burden upon the ones who we should be respecting and protecting that should not be there? We can do that with this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 5:15 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, soon we will be debating the future of ObamaCare. The American people have told us they want Congress to repeal this so-called health care law. They told us to start over with real health care reform. This actually shouldn't be a very controversial vote. It is clear, even to the law's supporters, that the Obama health care law has not worked out in any way they had specifically expected. The ObamaCare health care law is collapsing, whether the President wants to admit it or not.

Democrats should really be eager to join us to help fix the damage that has been done by this law. So far they have been much more focused on protecting President Obama's legacy than on protecting the American people and the health of the American people from ObamaCare.

Last month President Obama did a radio show in which he was asked about the law and about problems with the law because people all across the country are seeing significant problems with the law. The President would not admit to a single problem with this law. He insisted: "It has been a success."

Well, I go home to Wyoming every weekend. I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in Wyoming for 25 years, and the people whom I talk to—my patients, my neighbors, people all around the State, and the people whom I run into in my travels—do not consider ObamaCare a success.

Democrats come to the floor and say: It is OK that insurance rates are rising. Remember when the President said they would go down by \$2,500 per family? The Democrats say it is OK that the insurance rates are rising because they say the rates also went up before the law. What they won't tell you is that premiums aren't just going up a little; they are going up a lot next year. Actually, they are going through the roof.

There was a study by the McKinsey Center for U.S. Health System Reform. They found that the median increase for the bronze plans went up 13 percent from this year to next year. That is just the average. That means for half of the people, they are going to pay more than that. The silver plan is up 11 percent, the platinum plan is up 12 percent, and the gold plan is up 15 percent. These double-digit price increases are not a success.

Democrats have come to the floor and have talked about some of the peo-

ple who have gotten insurance coverage since the law took effect. What they won't tell you is that having insurance coverage is not the same thing as getting medical care.

The New York Times ran an article about 2 weeks ago with this headline: "Many Say High Deductibles Make Their Health Law Insurance All But Useless." They don't even call it health insurance. They call it health law insurance because it is insurance to comply with the law and not to actually give you the health care. It is astonishing. Even the New York Times calls it health law insurance.

The article tells the story about David Reines from Jefferson Township, N.J. He is 60 years old and has a history of chronic knee pain. This man says: "The deductible, \$3,000 a year, makes it impossible to actually go to a doctor." He says: "We have insurance, but can't afford to use it."

President Obama, this is not a success. Democrats who support the health care law say that it created these marketplaces where people can shop for insurance. What they won't tell you is that companies have been pulling out of the marketplaces and exchanges all across the country. More than half of the State co-ops have gone out of business and have failed. The largest health insurance company in America says that it may drop out of the program entirely next year.

In Wyoming, there is just one company participating in the ObamaCare exchange. That is the choice on the Wyoming exchange—one. Does President Obama consider that a success? Democrats say a lot of people like their insurance plans. Well, they won't tell you about the Gallup poll last month that found that the American people are far from happy. Just 33 percent of Americans said that the health care coverage in this country is either excellent or good—one out of three. Only one out of five is satisfied with the total cost of their health care.

Now, both of these numbers are worse than they were when President Obama took office. When asked: How are you going now compared to where you were when Barack Obama moved into the White House, people will tell you that when it comes to health care, it is worse.

Another survey last month by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that just 38 percent of Americans have a favorable opinion of the health care law. Is that the way President Obama measures success? Is that what he calls a success?

Why won't the Democrats come to the floor and talk about these surveys? Democrats come down to the floor and say that ObamaCare has put millions of people on Medicaid. I am not sure how many of them have a full understanding of Medicaid. As a doctor who practiced medicine for 24 years, I can tell you a lot about Medicaid. They won't say anything about this failed program. They won't admit to the fact that Medicaid is a failed program.