

wouldn't increase. Americans were promised shopping for ObamaCare would be as simple as shopping for a TV on Amazon. Three more promises, three more betrayals, and on and on and on it has gone for more than 5 long years.

Democrats need to understand it is time to face up to the pain and the failure their law has caused. They can keep trying to talk past the middle class. They can keep trying to deny reality. But they have to realize that no one is buying the spin but them.

Americans are living with the consequences of this broken law and its broken promises every single day. Its negative effects are often felt in the most personal and visceral ways, and Americans are tired of being condescended to. They want change, and they want a bridge to better care, not ObamaCare, and this bill offers it.

I think Democrats have a particular responsibility to the millions their law has hurt already to help pass the law we have before us. I think the President has a particular responsibility to the millions his law has hurt already to then sign it. That is the best way to build a bridge to a fresh start—to a better, healthier, and stronger beginning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NEW SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on another matter, every day this week I have mentioned some of the significant accomplishments of a Senate under new management—a Senate that has put its focus back on the American people.

After years of inaction, this Senate took bipartisan action to help the victims of modern day slavery. Many said the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would never pass the Senate, but we proved them wrong. We proved it could actually pass by a wide bipartisan margin. In a new and more open Senate, Senator CORNYN was able to work with Democratic partners to ensure it ultimately did.

After years of inaction, the Senate took bipartisan action to protect the privacy of Americans. Many said the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act would never pass the Senate, but we proved them wrong. We proved it could actually pass by a wide bipartisan margin. In a new and more open Senate, Senator BURR, a Republican, and Senator FEINSTEIN, a Democrat, were able to ensure that it ultimately did.

After years of inaction, the Senate took bipartisan action to lift children up with better educational opportunities. Many said the Every Child Achieves Act would never pass the Senate, but we proved them wrong. We proved it could actually pass by a wide bipartisan margin. In a new and more open Senate, Senator ALEXANDER, a Republican, and Senator MURRAY, a Democrat, were able to ensure that it ultimately did.

And after years of inaction, the Senate took bipartisan action to meaningfully improve our roads and infrastructure over the coming years. Many said that the long-term Highway and Transportation Funding Act would never pass the Senate, but we proved them wrong. We proved it could actually pass by a wide bipartisan margin. In a new and more open Senate, Senator INHOFE, a Republican, and Senator BOXER, a Democrat, were able to ensure that it ultimately did.

Today, we are on the verge of passing that bill again. We are on the verge of passing it into law. The revised legislation we will consider provides 5 full years of highway funding. It would be the longest term bill to pass Congress in almost two decades, and it would provide long-term certainty in a fiscally responsible way. In other words, this bill will finally provide State and local governments with the kind of certainty they need to focus on longer term road and bridge projects. This is a significant departure from years—years—of short-term extensions.

There is a lot more to say about what the new Congress has been able to achieve on behalf of the American people. I look forward to continuing to share these successes here on the floor.

Tuesday's announcement on the highway bill is just the latest reminder of what is possible in a new and more open Senate. It builds the basis for more wins into the future. And most importantly, it is an achievement for the American people—an achievement that only a new Congress has been able to deliver.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

WORK OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, no matter how many times my friend—and we have served together in this body for a long, long time—comes here and talks about how wonderful this Senate is under Republican leadership, the facts aren't on his side. He talked about getting things done after years of inaction. The inaction was the result of Republican filibusters—recordbreaking filibusters.

Bill after bill was blocked. Elementary and secondary education, cyber security, everything that he mentioned—everything, without exception—would have been done a long time ago except for Republican filibusters. To now come to the floor and claim: Isn't it wonderful we were able to get things done during this Congress, because we did not block things—no matter how many times he comes, we and the pundits have already said it is the most unproductive year in the Senate's history. We have had more revotes than at any time in the history of the country and less done than at any time in the country's history.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wonder what my Republican friends do when they are not here in Washington, DC. Do they bother to talk to their constituents? Do they sit down and meet them at townhall meetings or across a fence in someone's backyard? I have a hard time believing my Republican friends are spending much time listening to constituents' concerns. I already talked about guns today.

It seems to me what we are doing is counter to the needs of constituents. This absurd—absurd—attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act through reconciliation is a perfect example. Every day the Republican leader comes to the floor and rails against ObamaCare, yet more than 10 percent of his constituents are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act—500,000 people. I can't believe those people in Kentucky are telling the Republican leader to take away their health care.

Now, he is not alone in pushing the repeal that would expressly hurt people back home. He and the junior Senator from Wyoming both oppose the Affordable Care Act and the law's expansion of Medicaid, but their own Republican Governor—the Governor of Wyoming—is using ObamaCare to expand health coverage for the people of Wyoming.

Wyoming Governor Matt Mead is proposing a Medicaid expansion that will help 17,000 people. Now, 17,000 people in the sparsely populated State of Wyoming is a lot of people. Governor Mead wrote this to the State legislature:

This economic boost would stabilize services and inject tax dollars paid by Wyoming citizens back into Wyoming communities. The numbers are compelling.

But apparently those facts are not compelling enough for the Senators from Wyoming, who are both voting for repeal.

The Republican Senator from North Dakota has also been a critic of the Affordable Care Act. Once again, his opposition does not jibe with what North Dakota's Governor is saying. North Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard is fighting in the State legislature to expand Medicaid access to residents. He is a Republican and served for 10 years as JOHN HOEVEN's Lieutenant Governor, but Senator HOEVEN will vote for repeal.

The junior Senator from Montana is opposed to Medicaid expansion. Earlier in the month he seemed supportive of Montana's expansion of Medicaid saying:

I respect the decision of our Legislature and our governor on Medicaid expansion. I'm one who respects their rights and voices.

But today, I am told, he will perform a breathtaking about-face and vote to do away with Montana's health care.

There is a longer list. Republicans from Ohio, West Virginia, and the State of Nevada have all embraced Medicaid expansion.

In Nevada, Governor Brian Sandoval is considered by many to be a star in the Republican Party. But notwithstanding his party's anti-ObamaCare