

be deceived. Do not be deceived. Americans will pay a very high price. Medicare for All has been estimated at a 10-year pricetag of \$32 trillion. There is only one way to even try to pay for this massive plan and that is to dramatically raise everyone's income taxes to the point where they may need to pay double. That is what is being proposed.

So the result will be less freedom, lower quality of care, and longer lines as people have to wait to get to a doctor, because Washington will be controlling the doctor-patient medical decisions—and, mark my words, Washington will ration care. Rationing means delays and delay means denial of care. Government-run healthcare is notorious for producing long lines, long waiting periods, delay in care—even urgently needed care.

The government-run system has failed where they tried to put it in place in Vermont, in Senator SANDERS' home State. They started it and ended up having to eliminate it. They couldn't afford it. It wasn't working. It was too complicated. That is in one State.

We also have the situation of what is going on both in England and Canada right now in terms of costs and limits of care, the denial of treatment, the delay in treatment.

I think people watching may have seen the stories as a result of what is happening in England, where elderly patients are going blind in Britain right now. Why would they be going blind? Because the government is rationing cataract surgery. People can Google "going blind in Britain." It is the British healthcare system that is causing it because of the rationing of care. So Democrats are promoting this Medicare for All. Basically they are saying that ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced because it has failed the American people. The solution they are offering is not one that I think would make things better, but it is one that I think would make things worse.

Republicans, at the same time, are working for meaningful, workable solutions that lower the costs of prescription drugs, solutions that increase healthcare choice and transparency, and solutions that expand all Americans' access to affordable care. We want to make sure patients can get the care they need from the doctor they choose at a lower cost.

So instead of proposing higher taxes, which is what the Democrats are proposing, instead of proposing healthcare rationing, which will come with Medicare for All, Democrats need to begin working with Republicans to improve healthcare for all Americans, and they should start by rejecting BernieCare.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO MARK POWDEN

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of my long-

time chief of staff, staff director of the Democratic staff on the Senate Banking Committee, former staff director for Republicans on the HELP Committee, and my good friend Mark Powden.

Mark is the model of a public servant and of a Senate staffer. He spent decades serving in these Halls, first for Senator Jeffords, and then, in 2007, he joined my office, becoming my chief of staff less than 2 years later.

I was a brandnew Senator. I still had a lot to learn. There were few better teachers in this institution and this city than Mark Powden. He helped steer our office in its early days, setting up a well-oiled machine. I would like to think, that would serve Ohioans at home and advocate for them in Washington. Under Mark's leadership, we delivered results for the 12 million people in Ohio.

When the country wanted to write off the American auto industry, we said no. We weren't going to abandon this industry and millions of American workers—literally hundreds of thousands in Ohio. Mark was passionate about making sure we got the best deal possible for Ohio workers. It wasn't just auto workers.

Mark took over the job as chief of staff in my office during the depths of the recession around the time President Obama took office, after the economy was tanking with a loss of 800,000 jobs a month at the end of the Bush administration. Ohio had lost 423,000 jobs over a 2-year period—nearly 8 percent of the jobs in the State. Under Mark's leadership, we worked to create the Hardest Hit Fund, which targeted resources to communities in places like Ohio that had been devastated by the financial crisis. Mark and so many others have heard me say that the ZIP Code where my wife Connie and I live in Cleveland, OH—ZIP Code 44105—at that point, in the first half of 2007, there were more foreclosures in that ZIP Code than in any other ZIP Code in the United States of America.

Mark always made sure that investing in Ohio was a priority. We helped secure \$100 million to expand cancer research and treatment at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and James Cancer Hospital.

Through all of these accomplishments, Mark remained true to his Vermont roots. It is where he grew up. His first major job in Washington was with a Republican in those days, a Senator from Vermont. He tried his hardest always to bring Vermont's bucolic vales to the Nation's Capital, and he maintained the utmost respect for the institution of the Senate.

He had an incredible wealth of knowledge on the history of this place and on legislative procedure and tradition, and he passed it on to other staffers—from my new chief of staff, when Mark moved over to lead the Senate Banking Committee, to the LCs new to the Senate, hoping to learn. We will miss all that about Mark Powden.

I will miss Mark's counsel. I will miss his hard work. I will miss his sense of humor. I will miss his modesty. I will particularly miss his farmer jokes that he tells so well after growing up in rural Vermont. It is not surprising that Mark would not want to be here today as I honor him because he just doesn't want to show up to be honored. But after decades in public service, he has earned a long retirement with his wife Wendy; his two sons, Joseph and Russell; and his entire family.

Mark, thank you for what you did for me, thank you for what you did for our State, and thank you for what you do for our country.

I would add to this that one of the people Mark helped to teach is with me on the floor today. She is about to join a Presidential campaign. Her name is Hannah Fine. I want to recognize her service. This is the first time, I believe, she has been on the Senate floor for a moment like this. So, Hannah, thank you.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MOORE

Mr. President, this weekend, the President's pick for the Federal Reserve, Stephen Moore, said that we should focus a little less on all of his offensive and outlandish articles, the comments he made about women in print and on the air, the comments he made about places like Cincinnati and Cleveland, the attacks he has made on middle America, on working families. He said: Forget about all that. Let's talk about my economic record.

Well, Mr. Moore should be careful what he wishes for. His economic record is dangerous. It is out of touch. It is a big part of the reason we have suffered so many of the economic problems we have had in the last decade. Even conservative economists have criticized him.

He has claimed over and over again that the country is experiencing deflation. In other words, he thinks prices are falling. I don't know where he gets these ideas. I don't have any constituents who complain to me about prices falling—about deflation—but Mr. Moore seems to see things that aren't really there.

Tell someone who is paying college tuition, whether it is at Sinclair Community College or whether it is at Ohio State or Kent State University, that the prices are going down. Tell it to someone with diabetes trying to afford insulin. Tell somebody in Columbus, OH, who is trying to pay the rent that prices are falling. It is absurd. He makes economic statements like that with so little basis in fact.

He has been a conspiracy theorist. He thinks government statistics on the economy can't be trusted. Maybe that is where he got the idea that the cost of living is going down. He wants to return to the gold standard. He said on CNBC this morning that instead of talking about equal pay for women, the problem actually has been the steady decline in male earnings. I don't disagree the problem has been stagnant