

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Chair, I would like to revise my remarks made during debate of amendment No. 2 of H.R. 987, offered by Mr. MCKINLEY. In my remarks, I stated that the marketing and outreach provision under Title II of H.R. 987 would increase enrollment into health plans by five million over the ten year period as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office. Due to the methodology adopted by the Congressional Budget Office to estimate the enrollment effect of the underlying measure, the figure is more appropriately represented as increasing enrollment by about 500,000 each year over the ten year period.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 116-61.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title II the following new section:

SEC. 205. PROTECTION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN CERTAIN EXCHANGES.

In the case of an Exchange that the Secretary of Health and Human Services operates pursuant to section 1321(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18041(c)(1)), the Secretary may not implement any process that would terminate the health insurance coverage of an enrollee solely because such enrollee did not actively enroll during the most recent open enrollment period.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 377, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment, which I will describe in a moment, is about improving and preserving the Affordable Care Act. The word "sabotage" has been used here. We don't need that word. We have a very straightforward, very transparent difference of view.

The Democrats supported and passed the Affordable Care Act. We have been defending it for years. The Republicans opposed it. President Trump made it a campaign pledge to get rid of it, and they came within a vote in the Senate, except for John McCain, of repealing the law altogether.

We don't have to use words that are pejorative. We think we should have the Affordable Care Act. We think we should make it stronger, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to vote against it and now want to repeal it.

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One of the ways to make the Affordable Care Act effective is to have automatic reenrollment. If a family is in the Affordable Care Act and the time for reenrollment comes up, if they take no action, then they are automatically reenrolled in the plan that they are already in.

If you take away the automatic reenrollment, folks fall off, oftentimes for no particular reason. They were doing other things; they didn't notice it; they didn't have the time; or they didn't get to a navigator. There are lots of things that come between automatic reenrollment and picking your own plan.

By the way, studies have shown that automatic reenrollment, like automatic withdrawal to go into your retirement account, is very, very effective.

The President has indicated a desire to get rid of the automatic reenrollment program. He hasn't done that yet. This amendment would prohibit him from doing so.

There is a reason why the administration would like to get rid of automatic reenrollment. The evidence suggests that that would mean about 2 million Americans would then lose access to their healthcare because they hadn't reenrolled.

We don't want that to happen. We want those American families who depend on the healthcare that they have to continue receiving that healthcare next year just like they received it this year.

This amendment makes it very clear that that automatic reenrollment program would continue to be part of the Affordable Care Act.

Keep in mind, it in no way limits the ability of a family or an individual to decide to get into a different plan or to affirmatively say they don't want to be in any plan. That can still happen. There is total and complete freedom of choice, but it gives security. It is going to be very beneficial to about 2 million American families.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESAULNIER) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2379. An act to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1208. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH RESTORATION TO EMPOWER HEALTH EDUCATION ACT OF 2019

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COX of California). The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I believe I have the right to close.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. WELCH. How much time is remaining, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, we just have a difference of opinion. We think the Affordable Care Act is important to preserve and important to improve. My colleagues, when they have had an opportunity, have voted to repeal it.

Failing to repeal it, what the Trump administration has done is chip away at it. We don't want the administration to be able to get rid of automatic reenrollment, which would likely result in the loss of 2 million families having access to healthcare.

There has been a number of other things that have happened: slashing funding, slashing funding for consumer outreach and enrollment education by 90 percent, cutting back the uninsured rate for 4 years, and 1.1 million Americans losing coverage last year.

In the latest ACA marketplace final rule, the administration openly contemplated getting rid of this automatic reenrollment. This amendment protects the automatic reenrollment. It is going to protect continued access to care under the Affordable Care Act for 2 million Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, it is great being on the floor with a lot of my friends on the Energy and Commerce Committee and my colleagues across the aisle. Obviously, we have a fundamental disagreement.

I know, in southern Illinois, one of the biggest questions I always got and concerns was that ObamaCare plans are too expensive, and the deductibles