

small businesses in 2000 were insuring their workforce, and now we are at about 40 percent, and that number is dropping.

So in my view, no matter where you are on questions such as a public option—which I support and have supported—or not a public option, the thing that should find us all together is driving costs down in our system.

I won't bother to go through all of these tonight, but I will say that, in my judgment, a lot of this is pretty commonsense reform that we all ought to be able to support: Changing our incentive structure so we reimburse people based on quality of care, not the quantity of care.

Coordinating patient care. We have an incredible example of this in Colorado with the Rocky Mountain Health Plans on our Western Slope and Grand Junction, Mesa County, also at the University of Colorado at Denver, also at Denver Health, the public hospital in Denver. But there are examples all over this country, such as the Mayo Clinic, a place any one of us would be proud to send our kids or send our parents for care, which is delivering a higher quality of care at a lower price. It is something we should all be able to support.

More focus on money on preventive care.

Increased competition so that our families and small businesses have a broader pool from which to choose. Fifty-three percent of people in my State, the State of Colorado, are insured by just two insurers.

This is an important point we haven't talked about enough; that is, the investment in health care IT. When I traveled through the 64 counties, there was not a county that I went to where there wasn't a convenience store. Apart from the loose beef jerky that sits on the counter, everything in that store had a bar code on it. That is 1970s technology that people have used to manage the inventory of their local convenience store, the business owner has used to manage their inventory. Only 3 percent of hospitals in this country use that sort of technology. One out of 25 doctors in this country uses that technology.

I am a parent of three little girls. They are 10, 8, and 5. I can't tell you the number of times I have had to take them to the doctor or take them to an emergency room and have to explain again the whole story of why we were there and what the last doctor told us or what the last nurse told us. That is not the fault of the doctors or nurses, but it is the fault of having a system of insurance and a medical system that has not invested in technology.

I have spent roughly half my career in the private sector. When I look at the complete lack of investment in health care and when it comes to electronic medical records, I find it breathtaking, staggering that we could have that kind of inefficiency. So this is an important investment as well.

Then, bundling payments to encourage medical professionals to work together for the benefit of patients.

The final slide I wanted to share is just a reminder that there is a lot of insurance reform that is part of the proposals that are floating around the Congress. This is the whole issue about having people no longer denied insurance because they have a preexisting condition or are losing their insurance because they face a lifetime cap of some kind that many people don't even know they have in their policy or because their child gets sick and nobody predicted that and they get thrown off their policy or because they lose their job. I think all of us can agree that is a good idea.

So as we leave this week and we go home again this weekend, as I get to go back to Colorado and continue to have conversations with people in my State, what I am going to be focused on are the areas of agreement that working families, small businesses, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, can all agree upon. I think if we could focus our energy there, focus our attention there, what we are going to find is that the areas of disagreement are actually smaller than we imagined them to be.

Finally, in my view, we have waited far too long to do these commonsense reforms. I know there is a lot of concern about our rushing into something, and I don't think we should rush. But I think we need to get this done, and I think we need to get it done right. The American people need us to because they cannot endure another 10 years of graphs that look like the ones I showed you.

I don't want to have to go back to Colorado and explain why only 25 percent of people are covered at work or why there has been another 97 percent increase in premiums or why, when people buy insurance, there is no predictability to that insurance. I have great hope and optimism that, working together, we are going to get that kind of health care reform done in a smart, wise, measured way, and in a way that will require implementation over a period of time. There is no doubt in my mind we are going to get this done.

With that, I thank the Chair for listening to my remarks.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that, under the previous order, the Senate adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:21 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 11, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

SCOTT D. O'MALIA, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COM-

MISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2010 VICE WALTER LUKKEN, RESIGNED.
SCOTT D. O'MALIA, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2015. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HARRIS D. SHERMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, VICE MARK EDWARD REY, RESIGNED.

HARRIS D. SHERMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION, VICE MARK EDWARD REY.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREA M. CAMERON, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ANDREW J. BILLARD, OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CLAYTON A. ALDERMAN, OF OREGON
LEAH G. ALLEN, OF KANSAS
ERIC P. ANDERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NATHAN ANDERSON, OF TEXAS
ERIKA M. ARMSTRONG, OF VIRGINIA
NHIDE BAYRASLI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JEREMY R. BERNDT, OF MASSACHUSETTS
THERESA A. BLACKBURN, OF VIRGINIA
DOUG BOUDREAU, OF VIRGINIA
SANDRA BOWERS, OF OHIO
CHARITY L. BOYETTE, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID BRADFIELD, OF NEVADA
JESSICA LYNN BRADSHAW, OF PENNSYLVANIA
ALEXANDRA M. BRATTON, OF VIRGINIA
JODI R. BREISLER, OF MINNESOTA
ALAN Z. BRINKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SARA G. BURGESS, OF VIRGINIA
CIERA DAWN BURNETT, OF MASSACHUSETTS
VANNA CHAN, OF MINNESOTA
MATTHEW GLENN CHOWN, OF CALIFORNIA
DAWN M. COATS, OF VIRGINIA
BEAU E. CONAWAY, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREA LYNNE COPPAGE, OF MARYLAND
GIANGHAN NAR DAO, OF CONNECTICUT
KEVIN GREGORY DAUCHER, OF ARIZONA
JAMESON LEE DEBOSE, OF NEBRASKA
DIANE C. DEL ROSARIO, OF NEW YORK
THEODORE E. DIEHL, OF ILLINOIS
JOHN H. DOUGLAS, OF VIRGINIA
BRETT A. EGGLESTON, OF MASSACHUSETTS
BENJAMIN HARRIS ELLIS, OF GEORGIA
SAMANTHE A. EULETTE, OF GEORGIA
JOSEPH FARBEANN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
TERENCE ELLIOTT FAVORS, OF COLORADO
NICHOLAS C. FIETZER, OF MINNESOTA
JOSHUA N. FINCH, OF WYOMING
TARA EILEEN FOLEY, OF VIRGINIA
MARY G. GARNBERG, OF CALIFORNIA
M. SHAYNE GAHAHER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RAFAEL ANCHET GONZALEZ, OF NORTH CAROLINA
KESHAV GOPINATH, OF CALIFORNIA
EMILY ROYSE GREEN, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER M. GRELLER, OF WYOMING
TRAVIS AUSTIN GROUT, OF OHIO
STEPHEN W. GUENTHER, OF VIRGINIA
TOMAS ANDRES GUERRERO, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN HALL, OF COLORADO
TIONA K. HARRISON, OF MARYLAND
ANA ELIZABETH HIMELIC, OF ARIZONA
ELIZABETH A. HOLCOMBE, OF INDIANA
DANIEL JOSEPH HORSFALL, OF TENNESSEE
ROBERT FREDERICK HUBER, OF TEXAS
ANGELA TIOGE, OF CALIFORNIA
JINANSHU C. JAIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
BRIAN JOHNSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA
JONATHAN A. KENT, OF IOWA
ANNA MARIE KERNER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
JENNIFER BARNES KIERN, OF OKLAHOMA
MICHAEL J. KREIDLER, OF FLORIDA
SAMANTHA KUO, OF CALIFORNIA
SONIA LAUL, OF TEXAS
LI PING LO, OF VIRGINIA
ANDERS E. LYNCH, OF MARYLAND
BRITTANY KATHARYN MACKAY, OF VIRGINIA
EVAN CAMPBELL MAHER, OF WASHINGTON
CHRISTINE A. MARCUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MEGHAN MCCLILL, OF ARIZONA
JONATHAN MCKAY, OF WASHINGTON
CHRISTOPHER PAUL MEADE, OF CALIFORNIA
JONATHAN M. MERMIS—CAYVA, OF CALIFORNIA
JAMES THOMAS MOPFIT, OF NEW MEXICO
ANDREW R. MOORE, OF MICHIGAN
SASHA K. MORENO, OF TEXAS
TRAVIS J. MURPHY, OF TEXAS
ALEXIS VESTA RUTH MUSCOMELLI, OF WASHINGTON
LORENZO NEW, OF FLORIDA
MORGAN J. O'BRIEN III, OF NEW YORK
KEVIN JAMES OGLEBY, OF CALIFORNIA