

because women are becoming more and more the primary breadwinner.

On Sunday, this Sunday, a part of Women's History Month, we mothers, sisters, brothers, and dads will have the opportunity to cast an historic vote that will improve health care for all Americans and long-awaited gains for women in particular.

What women have to gain from this bill. Number one, no more gender ratings. Right now a gender rating system is used by many insurance companies in the current health care system to charge women more than men for the same health care insurance. Discriminatory practices are allowed in all but 12 States. With the health care reconciliation bill, women and men will be charged the same price for the same coverage. It only makes right sense.

What is the second thing we will do? You will no longer be able to see women struggling that they will be denied their coverage based upon pre-existing conditions. Women are often denied coverage because of past pregnancies, C-sections, and domestic violence injuries. With the new health care reconciliation bill it will be illegal, and that only makes sense, to deny women coverage or charge them higher rates based upon any supposed "pre-existing conditions."

And then what is the third thing? Expanding access to employer-provided health care insurance. Can you believe that right now less than half of American women receive health care through their employers? Why? Because more women work for small businesses, and they also work more part-time than most men. So because of that, their ability for health care insurance is hindered. With the health care reconciliation bill, small businesses will be able to afford health care and good choices. By joining with others in the exchange, they will have an increase in their purchasing power. And then most importantly, there will be tax credits to make it affordable for small businesses to have coverage.

And then what is the fourth thing? By this, when you look at currently, doing away with copays and deductibles for preventive care. Many women forgo preventive care such as mammograms because of the prohibitive high costs. With the health care reconciliation bill, which makes sense, we can emphasize the importance of preventive care and early detection. We can eliminate copays and deductibles for preventive care. And most importantly, we can encourage women to go to their doctors regularly, protect themselves from debilitating medical crises, and oh, by the way, save money too.

Women have much to gain with health care reform. Women, when you consider it, we also have much to lose for continued nonaction and status quo. What women stand to lose if reform does not occur, women will continue to be subjected to discrimination. Right now many women are being

charged 48 percent more than men for the same health insurance. It doesn't make sense and it is not right. We cannot continue to condone this discrimination in America.

If reform does not occur, women will be denied coverage based upon pre-existing conditions. And in eight States, including where we reside now, the District of Columbia, women are still being denied health care because they might have been victims of brutal domestic violence. If reform does not occur, some women will not receive health care even when they are pregnant and they need it most.

Women need the peace of mind that they and their baby will not have to worry about skyrocketing health care costs. Many companies today right now continue to not include maternity coverage. And as I close, this would mean that 79 percent of the women in individual markets today do not have maternity coverage.

Americans face discrimination. All Americans are currently facing discrimination with our failed health care policies. And women, their fate is even worse. The final reconciliation version of the health care bill includes equal access to affordable, quality health care for women and for all Americans.

#### THE JACK YATES BASKETBALL TEAM OF HOUSTON, NATIONAL CHAMPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow night starts what we call March Madness, college basketball playoffs for the national championship, and 65 college teams throughout the country will start competing tomorrow night. But there is one team that won't be there. And probably those 65 teams are glad this team is not there. It is not a college team. It is a high school team, and they are from Jack Yates Senior High School in Houston, Texas. They are now ranked the number one high school basketball team in the United States by USA Today and Rivals.com.

The Jack Yates Lions have won 58 consecutive basketball games in a row, going since last year, and two Texas State championships in 4A basketball. They have defeated their opponents by an awesome amount of points. They have won games by 88 points, 90 points, 98 points, 99 points, 115 points, and 135 points against the opposition. And that is just the margin of victory in those games.

In one game this year, on January 5, 2010, they scored 170 points in a high school basketball game, breaking the national record. That is an 18-year record set of scoring. And yes, they scored 170 points in one game. No wonder they weren't invited to the big March Madness starting tomorrow night in college basketball games.

They not only set the national record for consecutive games won over 100 points, they finished the season averaging 116 points per game, taking that title away that was 40 years old from a Hobbs, New Mexico high school team. They scored 100 points in 26 basketball games this year. They are a foe to be reckoned with. They have no competition in high school basketball anywhere in the United States.

They employ a strategy that is called "38 minutes of hell." It is a run and gun offense where the coach, Coach Greg Wise of Houston, Texas, plays all 15 players. Five at a time he puts them in. They run and gun up and down the basketball court, he pulls them out, puts another five in, throughout the game. And by the end of the game of course the other team is dragging, they are out of breath, out of energy, and they are out of points. And of course the Jack Yates High School basketball team wins the game.

In the State championship this year going into the fourth quarter they were behind by 24 points. They had a little conversation with their coach before the fourth quarter started, and they won the game by 23 points.

I want to commend this wonderful group of young men who live in Houston, Texas, for their zeal, for their energy, and for representing really what is good about high school sports not only in the State of Texas, but throughout the United States, and congratulate them on being the number one high school basketball team in the United States. Way to go, Lions.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, women of America, Republicans want you to believe that our health care reform bill is poison, that doing nothing is better for the Nation. But the truth is doing nothing is poison for the women of America. Insurance companies are cheating women from getting the health care they need. It is women that need health care reform the most.

Women have a harder time getting the care they need, women like Holly from Georgia. Holly is 3 months into her chemotherapy treatment for cervical cancer. She works at a small business that does not offer insurance to its employees, and she makes too much to qualify for Medicaid. But she thought she would be okay because of her husband's insurance. Then the devastating news came: her husband lost