

about \$1 trillion over a 20-year period, more than \$1 trillion, to be more appropriate.

This bill, if it becomes law, will reinstate the past that we have tried to overcome. This bill will bring back, reinstate, preexisting conditions. And as has been said, and for edification purposes, pregnancy is a preexisting condition. This bill will reinstate the doughnut hole that we have been trying to close to help seniors with their pharmaceuticals. This bill will reinstate kicking children off of the policies that they're on now with their parents until they are 26 years of age. This bill will reinstate a condition wherein approximately 45,000 persons per year were dying from a lack of insurance. That's one person every 12 minutes. This bill will take us back in my State to 6 million persons being uninsured without the possibility of having insurance, will take us back to 1.1 million persons in Harris County, Texas, being uninsured, 20 percent of the children in the State of Texas are uninsured. This bill will take us back to a time and the place that we tried to escape.

And I thank God that this so-called repeal will not become law because I believe that this bill, if it becomes law, will hurt too many people. And there are some I have actually heard say, it would be good for it to become law because then people could understand the pain that this bill will invoke. I don't agree. I do not agree because I don't want people to suffer unnecessarily. I believe we do have a duty to be our brother's keeper. And by the way, it's easy to be your brother's keeper when you don't have to keep your brother. It is difficult to do the right thing to make sure that every American has health care. In a country wherein we will take the bank robber who is harmed in the process of robbing a bank and give him aid and comfort, in a country wherein we will give our enemies in mortal combat aid and comfort if they should become wounded, in a country wherein we will give the person on death row who is to meet his Maker next week aid and comfort if he gets sick this week and then send him to meet his Maker next week, in this country, the richest country in the world, if we can give aid and comfort to the bank robber, if we can give aid and comfort to the mortal enemy of this country, if we can give aid and comfort to those who are on death row, we can give aid and comfort to those who are among the least, the last, and the lost.

I believe that we've made a mistake today. This is why I voted against repeal.

RENEWED INTEREST IN THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Constitution has received a

lot of attention in recent weeks, thanks to the tea party movement. It goes without saying that Members of Congress should have read the Constitution many times, and we should continue to study it.

Citing the particular clause of the Constitution that authorizes newly introduced legislation is a reasonable suggestion, yet in reality it will do little to restrain unconstitutional growth of Federal Government. We have had such rules in the past and no benefit came of it.

The laws that are passed reflect the preferences of those in charge, who promote their personal agenda. For too long that agenda has expanded government at the expense of personal liberty, regardless of which political party was in charge. Generally this trend was supported by voters, who rewarded most Members of Congress with reelection.

For many of us, this expansion of government clearly violated the Constitution, yet it was always argued that the program somehow conformed to that "living" document.

By misinterpreting the general welfare clause, the interstate commerce clause, and the "necessary and proper" clause, Congress has justified every conceivable expansion of the Federal Government. Congress also has misinterpreted the 14th Amendment and legislated as though it had repealed the 10th Amendment. Sadly, Congress has also systematically abdicated its prerogatives and responsibilities to the executive branch over many decades.

Too many people, in and out of Congress, grew up being taught that the Constitution was malleable. This has allowed judicial, legislative, and executive flexibility to make the Constitution "a modern living document." Though the authors allowed for "flexibility" through the amendment process, this process has been ignored for the sake of speed and convenience.

□ 1820

As a result, the Constitution now has little meaning since most Members pay only lip service when taking their oath to obey it.

But I am encouraged by our growing grassroots interest in the Constitution, especially among the younger generation. I am glad Congress is becoming aware of it.

Our Constitution should be viewed as law, and Members of Congress should be expected to follow the rule of law. But a document is just that, and it is only as good as the character of those who represent us and promise to obey it.

Distorted interpretations come easily when the goal is opposite of what the original authors intended and what the plain text provides.

If true liberty is not our goal, persistent efforts to rationalize misinterpretations and circumvent the Constitution will continue.

Without men and women of character in Congress, respect for the rule of law

and a love of liberty, the Constitution becomes but a worthless piece of paper. Celebrating the Constitution without this understanding will do nothing to restore the greatness of America.

Simply praising the document detracts from the need for Members to gain the courage to resist special interests; political self-interests; emergency needs in times of crisis; fear-based economic myths; and the persistent temptation to seek security over liberty while ignoring personal responsibility and self-reliance.

Providing instruction in the Constitution for staff and/or Members begs the question: Who will be the teacher?

I wonder, will this welcomed renewed interest in the Constitution lead to a healthy reassessment of all of our policies?

Will there be no more wars without an actual congressional declaration?

Will the Federal Reserve Act be repealed?

Will only gold and silver be called legal tender?

Will we end all of the unconstitutional Federal departments, including the Department of Energy, Education, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor?

Will the Patriot Act be repealed and all of the warrantless searches stopped?

Will TSA be restrained or abolished?

Will the IRS's unconstitutional collection powers end?

Will executive and judicial quasi-legislative powers be ended?

Will we end the Federal war on drugs?

Will we end the Federal Government's involvement in medical care?

Will we end all of the Federal Government's illusionary insurance programs?

Will we ban secret prisons, trials without due process, and assassinations?

Will we end our foreign policy of invasion and occupation?

For America to once again become the standard for a free society, our love of liberty and desire for peace must far surpass any public display of fidelity to the Constitution. We must first look to strong moral character, respect for the rule of law, and an understanding of the proper role of government in a free society.

REMEMBERING SARGENT SHRIVER

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight very sadly to talk a little bit about one of the greatest Americans of our generation, a true American hero, in my view, Sargent Shriver.

I really have to say I am also very upset that the Republican leadership wouldn't allow for a moment of silence in today's session for such a distinguished American.

I rise today in honor of his life and legacy.

I got to meet Sargent Shriver when I was a Peace Corps trainee in 1963, about 22 years old in a small, little town in New Mexico, Questa, New Mexico, and I was in awe that I, as a trainee, could meet the first Director of the Peace Corps.

He embodied the relentless spirit of public service that makes America great. He will forever hold a special place in our country's history. I remember just the vitality and spirit that he had that drove me to want to be a Peace Corps volunteer at a time when nobody really knew what they did because they hadn't come home yet. It was a risk, an adventure, and I was really not sure that it was the best thing to do. And yet I look back with pride and admiration and what a privilege it was to serve under his leadership.

With the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver took President Kennedy's vision of service and optimism and built it into one of America's best institutions. After 3 years as Director of the agency, the Peace Corps had more than 6,500 volunteers serving in more than 50 developing countries. He once told me the story that in those days, with the President's own budgeting, they were able to place Peace Corps volunteers in Latin America and Africa before Congress ever got around to authorizing the program.

These volunteers showed the world the true American values of peace, prosperity, and opportunity that had been eclipsed by the Cold War.

Over the past 50 years, through war and conflict, Sarge's foundational work of the Peace Corps has enabled volunteers to show the world a hopeful, uplifting side of America that reflects our fundamental values of service and tolerance.

Today, Sarge's legacy lives on in a quarter million Americans who have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries around the world, all in the name of peace and goodwill.

Beyond the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver was actively engaged in civic society. He served as Ambassador to France; leader of the War on Poverty as the first Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which began the Head Start program, which began VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America; and as a Vice Presidential candidate. His touch can be found on some of our Nation's finest efforts, including the Special Olympics and racial integration.

But above all, Sarge's devotion to public service was beyond reproach. Like his wife, Eunice, who really started the Special Olympics—and I might add that the Special Olympics is now in more countries than is the Peace Corps—I can't think of a married couple in America who have done more worldwide than Eunice Shriver and Sargent Shriver to help people in need.

I will always hold my special memories of sharing Peace Corps stories with

Sargent Shriver—or Sarge, as we called him. At various events that honored the agency, we both got to speak. And one of my most significant moments of my life was the privilege of being presented with a Peace Corps Public Service Award in 2006 by Sargent Shriver.

To all who knew him, Sargent Shriver was a man of tremendous heart and vision who leaves behind a living legacy of service and hope. That legacy of public service lives on in the lives of his children. Their mother died in 2009, but today we have daughter Maria, who is the first lady of California. We have their four other children: son Robert Shriver of Santa Monica, who is an activist in California; former Maryland delegate, Mark Shriver of Bethesda, Maryland; Tim Perry Shriver of Chevy Chase—both involved in Special Olympics; and Anthony Paul Shriver of Miami. Most of all, they have 19 children.

Sargent Shriver's life reminds us of the value of distinguished public service, and that it is incumbent upon all of us to renew his vision of a better America for future generations.

My thoughts and prayers are with his children and grandchildren and the entire Shriver and Kennedy families.

[From Vanity Fair, Jan. 19, 2011]

SARGENT SHRIVER'S LASTING IMPACT: AN APPRECIATION

(By Maureen Orth)

At a Saint Patrick's Day party at the White House during Clinton's first term, I bumped into Sargent Shriver and introduced him to my husband as "the George Washington of the Peace Corps." Shriver corrected me. "No," he said, holding out his arm waist high. "George Washington was here." Then he raised his arm above his head and said, "In the Peace Corps, I'm here!" He laughed so easily and so frequently, and he had such enthusiasm and energy, that he made the idea of service pure fun. And he was right about where he stood with so many of us former Peace Corps volunteers—he was our founding father, an icon. All you had to do was utter his name—Sarge—and it immediately stood for giving your all and being your best.

I was recruited into the Peace Corps at age 20, right off the Berkeley campus, by a loud southern guy with a bullhorn—he was to become the NBC reporter Douglas Kiker (years later we met as colleagues). Sarge had the ability to bring together all sorts of talented and sometimes offbeat people, and to convince them to try something they weren't really planning to do.

I served in the Peace Corps for two years in Medellin, Colombia, and have remained involved with the community. I was in Medellin last week to help set up a third school for poor kids that is run by a foundation I created several years ago to provide students at all three schools with computers and training in English and leadership. It is a way for me to continue the work I did in the Peace Corps, and I thank Sarge for giving me the means to get along in exotic places, to speak Spanish, and to be a much better journalist, because I learned in the Peace Corps how to observe acutely and to understand issues from other people's points of view.

Sarge was both brilliant and selfless—too selfless, some might argue, when it came to his own political career. His parents were Catholic intellectuals from aristocratic Maryland stock. They lost their money dur-

ing the Depression and ended up running a Catholic bookstore where the ideas of social activists such as Sarge's heroine, Dorothy Day, were profoundly influential. Sarge managed to go to Yale for both his undergraduate and law degrees, but he was often like the proverbial kid with his nose pressed against the candy-store window—although he was drop-dead handsome, everybody else had a lot more goodies.

After serving heroically in World War II as a naval gunnery officer—he was a deadly marksman whose ship, in one Pacific battle, shot down 32 Japanese planes in three hours—Sarge dropped law to become an assistant editor at Newsweek. During that job he met Joe Kennedy, who asked him to run "this building I just bought in Chicago"—it was the Merchandise Mart, the largest commercial building in the world at the time. By then he had met the forceful Eunice Kennedy, one of Joe's nine children, by whom he had been immediately smitten, but she gave him a hard time for years before they finally married, in 1953.

There wasn't a tough job that Sarge did not do well. When John F. Kennedy asked him to run the Peace Corps, he joked that J.F.K. had no choice but to give the job to a brother-in-law due to its enormous potential for failure. A few years later, Jacqueline Kennedy asked Sarge to arrange her husband's funeral, and he did so flawlessly. After heading the Chicago school board and becoming a leading civil-rights advocate, he was frequently mentioned as both an Illinois gubernatorial and senate candidate. In 1964, Lyndon Johnson very much wanted Sarge to be his running mate, but the Kennedys said absolutely not—it was Bobby's turn first. Then it was Teddy's turn.

Sarge loved running the very popular Peace Corps, but he reluctantly quit when L.B.J. twisted his arm to head the War on Poverty. Democrat George McGovern turned to Sarge to run with him as vice president, in 1972, after Tom Eagleton dropped out when it was revealed that he had undergone psychiatric treatment, but they lost big-time. Sarge also served as ambassador to France, and in the last decades of his life he and Eunice founded the Special Olympics and made it a worldwide force for the intellectually disabled. He was the kind of husband who seriously thought his wife should be canonized by the Catholic Church; Sarge himself was so devout that even as he was ravaged by Alzheimer's in his later years, the two things he never forgot were his prayers and his manners. "You're a good looking kid," he said to my son a few years ago as he stuck out his hand in greeting. "Are you my son?"

I loved spending time with Sarge—he was a wonderful father to Bobby, Maria, Tim, Mark, and Anthony Shriver, all of whom have distinguished themselves in service to others. For years they had to share him with thousands of Peace Corps volunteers for whom he was both a touchstone and an idealized father figure. It is hard to believe that today we can no longer have Sarge among us, exhorting us to "serve, serve, serve!"

[From the New York Times, Jan. 18, 2011]

R. SARGENT SHRIVER, PEACE CORPS LEADER, DIES AT 95

(By Robert D. McFadden)

R. Sargent Shriver, the Kennedy in-law who became the founding director of the Peace Corps, the architect of President Lyndon B. Johnson's war on poverty, a United States ambassador to France and the Democratic candidate for vice president in 1972, died on Tuesday in Bethesda, Md. He was 95.

His family announced his death in a statement.

Mr. Shriver was found to have Alzheimer's disease in 2003 and on Sunday was admitted to Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, where he died. He had been in hospice care in recent months after his estate in Potomac, Md., was sold last year.

White-haired and elegantly attired, he attended the inauguration of his son-in-law, Arnold Schwarzenegger, as the Republican governor of California in the fall of 2003. Mr. Schwarzenegger is married to Maria Shriver, a former NBC News correspondent.

But in recent years, as his condition deteriorated, Mr. Shriver was seldom seen in public. He emerged in one instance to attend the funeral of his wife of 56 years, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of John F. Kennedy; she died in 2009 in Hyannis, Mass., at the age of 88.

As a Kennedy brother-in-law, Mr. Shriver was bound inextricably to one of the nation's most powerful political dynasties. It was an association with enormous advantages, thrusting him to prominence in a series of seemingly altruistic missions. But it came with handicaps, relegating him to the political background and to a subordinate role in the family history.

"Shriver's relationship with the Kennedys was complex," Scott Stossel wrote in "Sarge: The Life and Times of Sargent Shriver," a 2004 biography. "They buoyed him up to heights and achievements he would never otherwise have attained—and they held him back, thwarting his political advancement."

The book, as well as reports in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other publications, suggested that Mr. Shriver's hopes to run for governor of Illinois in 1960 and vice president in 1964 and 1968 were abandoned to help promote, or at least not compete with, Kennedy aspirations. Mr. Shriver's vice-presidential race in 1972, on a ticket with Senator George S. McGovern, and a brief primary run for president in 1976 were crushed by the voters.

Mr. Shriver was never elected to any national office. To political insiders, his calls for public service in the 1960s seemed quixotic at a time when America was caught up in a war in Vietnam, a cold war with the Soviet Union and civil rights struggles and urban riots at home. But when the fogs of war and chaos cleared years later, he was remembered by many as a last vestige of Kennedy-era idealism.

"Sarge came to embody the idea of public service," President Obama said in a statement.

Mr. Shriver's impact on American life was significant. On the stage of social change for decades, he brought President Kennedy's proposal for the Peace Corps to fruition in 1961 and served as the organization's director until 1966. He tapped into a spirit of volunteerism, and within a few years thousands of young Americans were teaching and working on public health and development projects in poorer countries around the world.

After the president's assassination in 1963, Mr. Shriver's decision to remain in the Johnson administration alienated many of the Kennedys, especially Robert, who remained as the United States attorney general for months but whose animus toward his brother's successor was profound. Mr. Shriver's responsibilities deepened, however. In 1964, Johnson persuaded him to take on the administration's war on poverty, a campaign embodied in a vast new bureaucracy, the Office of Economic Opportunity.

From 1965 to 1968, Mr. Shriver, who disdained bureaucracies as wasteful and inefficient, was director of that agency, a post he held simultaneously with his Peace Corps job until 1966. The agency created antipoverty

programs like Head Start, the Job Corps, Volunteers in Service to America, the Community Action Program and Legal Services for the Poor. (The Office of Economic Opportunity was dismantled in 1973, but many of its programs survived in other agencies.)

In 1968, Johnson named Mr. Shriver ambassador to France. It was a time of strained relations. President Charles de Gaulle had recognized Communist China, withdrawn French forces from NATO's integrated military command and denounced American involvement in Indochina. But Mr. Shriver established a working rapport with de Gaulle and was credited with helping to improve relations.

Mr. Shriver returned to the United States in 1970 to work for Democrats in the midterm elections and to reassess his own political prospects. His long-awaited break came two years later when Senator McGovern, the Democratic presidential nominee, picked him as his running mate. Mr. McGovern's first choice, Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, was dropped after revelations that he had received electroshock therapy for depression.

The McGovern-Shriver ticket lost in a landslide to the incumbent Republicans, Richard M. Nixon and Spiro T. Agnew. Four years later, Mr. Shriver ran for the Democratic presidential nomination, pledging a renewal of ethics after the Watergate scandal that drove Nixon from the White House. But Mr. Shriver was knocked out in the primaries and ended his political career.

In later years, he was a rainmaker for an international law firm, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, retiring in 1986. He was also active in the Special Olympics, founded by his wife for mentally disabled athletes, and he continued his work with the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, an advocacy organization he founded in Chicago in 1967 as the National Clearinghouse for Legal Services.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded Mr. Shriver the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Ten years earlier, President Ronald Reagan conferred the same award on Eunice Shriver. They were the only husband and wife to win the nation's highest civilian honor individually.

In 2008, PBS broadcast a documentary, "American Idealist: The Story of Sargent Shriver." A children's book by Maria Shriver, "What's Happening to Grandpa?," was published in 2004, explaining the effects of Alzheimer's disease. In May 2009, HBO presented a four-part documentary on Alzheimer's. Ms. Shriver was the executive producer of one segment, "Grandpa, Do You Know Who I Am?"

Robert Sargent Shriver Jr., known as Sarge from childhood, was born in Westminster, Md., on Nov. 9, 1915, the son of his namesake, a banker, and Hilda Shriver. His forebears, called Schreiber, immigrated from Germany in 1721. One ancestor, David Shriver, was a signer of Maryland's 1776 Constitution. The Shrivens, like the Kennedys, were Roman Catholics and socially prominent, but not especially affluent.

On scholarships, he attended Canterbury, a Catholic boarding prep school in New Milford, Conn.—John F. Kennedy was briefly a schoolmate—and Yale University, graduating with honors in 1938. He earned a Yale law degree in 1941 and joined the Navy shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor, becoming an officer on battleships and submarines in the Atlantic and the Pacific and winning a Purple Heart for wounds he sustained at Guadalcanal.

After the war, he joined *Newsweek* as an editor. He met Eunice Kennedy at a dinner party, and she introduced him to her father, Joseph P. Kennedy. In 1946, Joseph Kennedy hired him to help manage his recently ac-

quired Merchandise Mart in Chicago, then the world's largest commercial building. In Chicago, Mr. Shriver not only turned a profit for the mart but also plunged into Democratic politics.

After a seven-year courtship, Mr. Shriver and Ms. Kennedy were married by Cardinal Francis Spellman at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York in 1953.

In addition to his daughter, Maria, Mr. Shriver's survivors include four sons, Robert Sargent Shriver III of Santa Monica, Calif.; Timothy, of Chevy Chase, Md.; Mark, of Bethesda, Md.; and Anthony, of Miami; and 19 grandchildren.

Mr. Shriver's relationships with the Kennedys were widely analyzed by the news media, not least because of his own political potential. He looked like a movie star, with a flashing smile, dark hair going gray and the kind of muscled, breezy athleticism that went with tennis courts and sailboats. Like the Kennedys, he was charming but not self-revealing, a quick study but not reflective. Associates said he could be imperious, but his knightly public image became indelible.

He took root in Chicago. In 1954, he was appointed to the city's Board of Education, and a year later became its president. In 1955, he also became president of the Catholic Interracial Council, which fought discrimination in housing, education and other aspects of city life. By 1959, he had become so prominent in civic affairs that he was being touted as a Democratic candidate for governor of Illinois in 1960.

Mr. Shriver did nothing to discourage reports that he was considering a run. But with the rest of the Kennedy clan, he joined John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign. As he and other family members acknowledged later, the patriarch, Joseph Kennedy, had told him that a separate Shriver race that year would be a distraction. So he resigned from the Chicago school board and became a campaign coordinator in Wisconsin and West Virginia and a principal contact with minorities.

As the election approached, the campaign learned that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been sentenced in Georgia to four months of hard labor for what amounted to a minor traffic violation. Mr. Shriver suggested that Senator Kennedy call a distraught Coretta Scott King, who was terrified that her husband might be killed in prison. His reassuring call, and another by Robert F. Kennedy to a judge in Georgia that led to Dr. King's release, helped produce a windfall of black support for Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy broached the idea for a volunteer corps in a speech at the University of Michigan and crystallized it as the Peace Corps in an appearance in San Francisco. Mr. Shriver, who as a young man had guided American students on work-and-learn programs in Europe, seemed a natural to initiate it.

After the inauguration, Mr. Shriver, who scouted talent for the incoming administration—people who came to be known as "the best and the brightest"—was assigned to the task of designing the Peace Corps, which was established by executive order in March 1961.

As director, he laid the foundations for what arguably became the most lasting accomplishment of the Kennedy presidency. As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary this year, more than 200,000 Americans have served as corps volunteers in 139 countries.

Break mirrors, Mr. Shriver advised graduating students at Yale in 1994. "Yes, indeed," he said. "Shatter the glass. In our society that is so self-absorbed, begin to look less at yourself and more at each other. Learn more about the face of your neighbor and less about your own."

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE WALKABOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize a great organization that has helped so many disabled individuals: the Walkabout Foundation. This terrific organization was founded by siblings Luis and Carolina Gonzalez-Bunster.

Sixteen years ago when he was 18 years old, Luis was in a car accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Luis was not going to allow this tragedy to define him or limit his ability to lead a full life. Just a few months after his accident, Luis moved to south Florida and enrolled at my alma mater, the University of Miami. Soon after, Luis started driving again and began to live on his own.

Leading an active lifestyle, which included being an avid swimmer, Luis took advantage of the University of Miami's extensive and accessible facilities. However, during a trip to the Connecticut YMCA a couple of years ago, Luis could not access the indoor swimming pool, so Luis and Carolina decided to take action.

Not only did they promote awareness of paralysis and disabilities in their community, but they also made the Connecticut YMCA accessible for all the disabled.

□ 1830

Out of this victory, the Walkabout Foundation was born.

The Walkabout Foundation's mission is twofold: first, to actively pursue a cure for paralysis by helping fund research programs; and, second, to provide wheelchairs to those who cannot afford one.

The foundation's unique efforts have garnered widespread support and attention. What makes the Walkabout Foundation singular is its drive to make sure that disabled individuals continue to lead full and active lives. This is due to Luis' character and unyielding belief that people should not be victims of their circumstances.

The Walkabout Foundation has not limited its services and generosity to just our Nation. Last month, the foundation provided 200 wheelchairs to Haiti in addition to the 400 they had already donated last year.

As someone who has seen the devastation and the human tragedy that has befallen the poor island nation of Haiti since last year's tragic earthquake, I know the impact and benefit the efforts of Luis and Carolina will bring to

help the lives of so many disabled individuals in Haiti.

They have also provided 100 wheelchairs to the Dominican Republic. These wheelchairs will go to children, teenagers and adults afflicted by paralysis, polio, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, as well as to amputees.

I commend Luis, Carolina and their Walkabout Foundation for all that they do. They are truly an inspiration for all.

THE ASSAULT ON OUR RIGHTS, OUR FREEDOMS, OUR DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, for everyone who has been listening to the dialogue and debate around health care reform, I want to make something crystal clear: regardless of the vote in the House, health care reform was not repealed today; and despite what some might be projecting and promising, all of us on both sides of the aisle know that this is true.

We also know that the next step in the larger plan to repeal health care reform will involve directing committees of jurisdiction to revisit the health care reform law.

Now, if this is going to be a process that includes meaningful hearings and honest dialogue about how to strengthen and bolster—not dismantle and obliterate—health care reform, then I would support that strategy. It would allow us to work together to build upon the many successes that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has already demonstrated: successes for our children, our seniors, the poor, and the already insured. That was the kind of process that led to the development and passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

But, to be honest, that was then; and I do not believe that such a process will occur this time because those calling for repeal don't seem to be interested in socially, fiscally and medically sound public health strategies to solve our Nation's public health problems.

Instead, the supporters of repeal have been steadfast in their efforts to minimize and even downplay the devastating steps backward that H.R. 2 would mean, not only for our Nation's most vulnerable residents—children and our seniors—but also for small businesses, the middle class, rural and low-income populations, and the financial as well as the physical health of our Nation.

So I urge not only my colleagues here, but every American who wants a healthier and stronger tomorrow to be engaged and active and to be alert because the real health care reform repeal efforts begin, not with this vote, but in the months ahead. All of us, everyone in this country—the insured

and the uninsured—have too much at stake to sit on the sidelines and remain silent.

We know that there is an appropriations strategy to ensure that the health care freedoms in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are not adequately or appropriately funded, making their implementation an utter impossibility. We can't let that happen.

We also know that efforts are under way that will allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to set spending limits on his own, without committee consensus and clearly without a fair, transparent, and democratic process. This is an assault on our democracy.

Finally, we also know that all of the harsh realities that repeal will mean to millions of Americans and their families will not be highlighted or even mentioned. For example, those calling for repeal won't admit that repeal would mean more uninsured Americans—54 million uninsured by 2019.

Those calling for repeal will never admit that repeal means an increase in the number of American families who will file bankruptcy, lose their homes and suffer other financial hardships because their health care costs are so high.

Those calling for repeal will never admit that repeal means a loss of jobs, increased unemployment and an increase in the deficit, even though they know, as we do, that without health care reform the Federal deficit will explode by \$143 billion over the next 10 years and by more than a whopping \$1 trillion over the next two decades.

Those calling for repeal will never admit that repeal will mean a drastic increase in the health disparities that we know leave racial and ethnic minorities and low-income and rural Americans in poorer health, who are more likely to die prematurely from preventable causes. A recent Joint Center study found that eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities would have reduced direct medical care expenditures by \$229.4 billion in just 4 years.

Finally, those calling for repeal will never admit that repeal, literally, could be a death sentence for thousands of innocent Americans every year. A recent IOM study suggests that more than 15,000 deaths per year could happen just because insurance was taken away.

So repeal did not take place today, but the assault on our rights, our freedoms, our democracy, as well as our very lives are on the line in the planned committee process, the budgetary sleights of hand and a targeted appropriations process. So let's not find ourselves repenting for the silence of good people.

TODAY, WE VOTED TO REPEAL

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