

assistance in New York or the countless physicians, rescue workers, and volunteers who made themselves available to help at a moment's notice.

Of course, we cannot tell America's story without telling the story of the men and women in our military who have spent the last decade trying to make sure an attack like this never happens again. Since September 11, more than 5 million men and women have voluntarily joined the Armed Forces to protect America and defend her freedom abroad. More than 6,200 Americans, including 37 troops from New Hampshire, have given the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's defense. Over 45,000 more have been wounded or injured and returned home with lasting scars. Millions of troops and their families have sustained the toughest, most debilitating tempo of deployments in our Nation's history, often being deployed into war five or six times, enduring constant mental and physical strains in service to our country.

The resolve our troops have demonstrated since 9/11 has yielded a string of successes on an extremely complex battlefield. Our men and women in uniform have done everything that has been asked of them. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice. Countless other high-level terrorist operatives, including the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, have been killed or captured, and the organization's bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan remain under constant pressure. Al-Qaida and its extremist affiliates' deadly ideology is being questioned around the globe, and the remnants of al-Qaida's diminishing leadership are disorganized and struggling to reestablish themselves in the face of an aggressive U.S. offensive.

As our current Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, has remarked, we are "within reach of strategically defeating al-Qaida." Although we can't be complacent and we must remain steadfast in our pursuit, our military should be honored for the gains our Nation has made against the terrorists who attacked us on September 11.

In New Hampshire our Air National Guard deployed almost immediately after the attacks, and every day since September 11, 2011, they have been providing persistent air refueling coverage for homeland defense and for our command issues in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I will forever remember walking through the New Hampshire airport with the New Hampshire National Guard when flights resumed after 9/11. As we walked through, people everywhere stopped what they were doing to applaud the National Guard for their efforts to keep the people of New Hampshire safe.

In the decade since the attacks, Americans have found new appreciation for the service these citizen soldiers provide, and Americans outside the military have learned they have a role to play too. With the heroes of United Flight 93 as their inspiration, everyday Americans have stopped a

number of terrorist plots from succeeding. Passengers and flight personnel stopped the December 2001 bomber, the attempt by shoe bomber Richard Reid, and they stopped the Christmas Day 2009 attempt onboard the Northwest Airlines flight. The attempted Times Square bombing last year, as you remember, was in part averted by an alert New York City street vendor.

Perhaps most importantly, as we remember America's 9/11 story this weekend, we should all reflect often the unity we demonstrated in the face of this terrible attack. On September 11 we were not Republicans or Democrats, Black or White, rich or poor. We were all Americans. The attack focused our attention on our common bonds and on the American ideals we all hold dear. We were determined to prove, despite our differences, that the United States of America would persevere and endure. While we have not always maintained that sense of unity in the years since, our memory of it has inspired us and continually reminded us of what is possible when we reach for the best within ourselves.

When the history books are written and America's 9/11 story is told to the generations to follow, I hope it will tell of how we came together to remind the entire world of what this country stands for and who we are as a people; how after our darkest day we rose up with new determination; how instead of turning inward, we chose to confront the evil that had visited our shores and to fight on; and how we continued to be the beacon of hope, liberty, and opportunity that we have always been to the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor because this week President Obama is going to present his new jobs plan to the American people and to all of us. I am certain we will hear a lot of talk and a lot of promises.

I remember when former House Speaker NANCY PELOSI famously announced in 2010 their White House health care summit. I sat around the table at that summit. In the discussion, she said the President's new health care law would create 4 million jobs. Here is exactly what former Speaker PELOSI promised on February 25, 2010. She said:

... this bill is not only about the health security of America, it's about jobs. In its life it will create 4 million jobs—400,000 jobs almost immediately.

I ask, where are the jobs? The fact is, the President's health care law didn't create jobs. As a physician, I have come to the floor every week since the health care law has been signed and have given a doctor's second opinion about this health care law and why I believe it is bad for patients, bad for providers—the nurses and the doctors who take care of those patients—and terrible for the taxpayers.

Here we are 17 months after the President signed his health care plan into law and the American people have yet to see job growth anywhere near the figures promised by NANCY PELOSI. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week the American economy generated a whopping zero jobs during the month of August. This is sobering news when we have 9.1 percent unemployment in America.

The New York Times, on September 3, had an editorial called "The Jobs Crisis," and let me read from it. It says:

The August employment report, released on Friday, is bleak on all counts, but at least it leaves no doubt that the United States is in the grip of a severe and worsening jobs crisis. That should lend a sense of urgency to the speech on jobs that President Obama plans to deliver this week.

The speech is scheduled for tomorrow night. The New York Times goes on to say:

The economy added no jobs in August—zero—and the anemic numbers for June and July were revised downward. The unemployment rate is stuck at 9.1 percent, but it would be 16.2 percent if it included the swelling ranks of those who find only part-time work and the millions who have given up looking for jobs that simply do not exist.

Here we are looking at this sobering news, and it seems the only connection between the health care law and the jobs market in America is that the job creators—the people who create jobs in this country—made it very clear they cannot afford the President's new health care law. Month after month we hear from more people in the private sector who explain they will either have to fire people or stop providing coverage in order to comply with the significant expenses of the new health care law. Let me repeat. This law encourages job creators not to create jobs but to fire workers, not to hire workers.

To get around this problem in the short term, the administration began doing something I did not anticipate when the health care law was signed. They began to grant waivers from the President's health care law. They said: Oh, it doesn't apply to you. It doesn't apply to you. Come and apply for a waiver. During the month of August—this past month—the administration, once again, granted another round of waivers from the President's health care law. There were another 73 waivers allowing 105,000 people to get out of

the mandates of the Obama health care law.

Since October of 2010, the Obama administration has granted over 1,500 annual benefit limit waivers. Now they are granting them for 3 years. These waivers now cover over 3.4 million Americans. So the law and the mandates don't have to apply to them with regard to the benefits. Whom have over 50 percent of these waivers gone to? They have gone to union people, people who have gotten their health care through a union health plan. These are the same people who supported the President's health care law. It is startling that even unions cannot afford the President's law.

Remember NANCY PELOSI saying: First, we have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. As more and more Americans have found out what is in the health care law, they say we do not want this to apply to us. In fact, the Service Employees International Union said the law would be financially impossible; that it is financially impossible for them to comply with. I don't think any job creator or American family should have to bear financially impossible costs because of the President's health care law. Each time this administration releases yet another round of its health care law waivers, it reminds the American people how fatally flawed the President's new law is.

As the President prepares for his speech tomorrow night, he needs to take a hard look at his health care law. He needs to face the unfortunate reality that his law actually makes it harder and more expensive for the job creators of this country to hire more people. We need to make it easier and cheaper for the job creators in this country to create private sector jobs, but yet the President's health care law makes it harder and more expensive. Tomorrow night, the President needs to change direction. Instead of giving waivers to businesses and unions, he should announce that all Americans can get a waiver from his health care law.

The good news is, I have a bill he can support immediately. My bill will allow any individual—any American citizen—to submit a waiver application seeking relief from any or all of the health care law's mandates. The waivers will be granted to individuals showing that the health care law is either increasing their health care premiums or decreasing their access to benefits. The bill is simple. It is straightforward. It is S. 1395. It is called the Waive Act, and there are 16 cosponsors in the Senate. Basically, it says, if a person's costs go up or their benefits go down, they have the freedom to get out of the President's health care law. Health insurance premiums have risen 19 percent since President Obama took office.

Tomorrow night, the President should announce that he will allow all Americans an opportunity to opt out of his health care law. If he did, this

would be one of the best steps he could take to help America's economy. That is why I come to the floor, week after week, with a doctor's second opinion about a health care law that I believe is hurting our country.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CRISIS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, the debt crisis has become a jobs crisis. There is no doubt in my mind that the debt we have now incurred is already weakening our economy. The gross Federal debt has increased by almost \$5 trillion since President Obama took office, surging past 100 percent of our gross domestic product—100 percent of the size of the economy.

Academic research shows this level of debt is already costing us 1 million jobs a year. Our debt is destroying growth and confidence in the economy. More borrowing—more borrowing—will only make matters worse. But according to the Associated Press in an article today, the President's job plan will add another \$300 billion to the debt.

This is the article by David Espo:

The economy weak and the public seething, President Obama is expected to propose \$300 billion in tax cuts and Federal spending Thursday night to get Americans working again.

I would say that is what he says will get the American people working again. But we have already borrowed all we can borrow without damaging the economy. It has come to a point where we can't keep borrowing in a futile attempt to stimulate the economy when the increased debt itself is weakening the economy.

The article goes on to say this:

According to people familiar with White House deliberations, two of the biggest measures in the proposal for 2012—

that begins October 1 of this year, fiscal year 2012—

are expected to be a one-year extension of the payroll tax for workers and an extension of expiring jobless benefits. Together those two would total about \$170 billion.

It goes on:

The White House is also considering a tax credit for businesses that hire the unemployed. That could cost about \$30 billion. Obama has also called for public works projects, such as school construction. Advocates of that plan have called for spending of \$50 billion . . .

on school construction. I don't think school buildings are the problem with our education right now, and when we don't have any money, we have to be careful about borrowing more to spend.

It goes on to say—and this is significant:

Though Obama has said he intends to propose long-term deficit reduction measures to cover the up-front costs of his jobs plan, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama would not lay out a wholesale deficit reduction plan in his speech.

In other words, he won't lay out a plan that would pay for it.

So this is where we are heading, it seems to me.

Remember the big debate we had over the debt ceiling that ended just before our August recess at the eleventh hour and the 59th minute. We remember how much spending reductions it would call for in the next fiscal year: \$7 billion. That is how much we would actually cut spending next fiscal year: \$7 billion. And this plan has called for over \$300 billion in spending anew, not paid for. We are already in debt. We are already borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and we are going to add another \$300 billion in spending, not paid for, borrowed, every penny of it. At some point, this country gets to a position where we cannot continue to borrow without damaging the economy. It is that simple. Americans understand it. As one man told me in Evergreen, AL: you can't borrow your way out of debt. You cannot borrow your way out of debt. We have reached and gone past that limit, in my opinion.

In order to have the kind of robust growth we desperately need, we must remove the looming threat of a Greek-like debt crisis. We must do so. This debt has a chilling effect throughout our economy. Indeed, a European banker just a few days ago said this feels like 2008, and that gained quite a bit of traction because people were feeling that, but nobody was saying it, and he was quoted all over the business channels about 2008 and the crisis we might be facing.

But the President has refused to do anything to actually reduce the surge in spending that he has engineered, nor have our Senate Democratic colleagues here in the Senate. The House proposed a sound budget plan that would reduce spending over the next 10 years and change the debt trajectory of America, but we spent almost \$8 trillion here in the Congress since the Senate Democratic majority has passed a budget—861 days. In fact, the Lewis and Clark expedition lasted 860 days. We have passed that now, without having a budget. That is a do-nothing record. It just is.

At a time of national crisis, we have a failure of leadership in the Senate and in the Presidency, in my opinion. President Obama has never once looked the American people in the eye and told them the bitter truth about the economic dangers we are facing and how much work must be done to get us back on a sound, secure path. It is hard to ask a people to sacrifice. It is hard to ask the American public to make tough choices if the President, our