

Mr. ELLISON. I appreciate everything everyone has said in defense of the Affordable Care Act; but rather than striking a statistical position or coming up with basically what was pretty humorous and entertaining by my good friend from Texas—I really enjoyed his presentation—I just want to talk about a person.

This is the person I want to talk about. She is a young lady from my district in the prime of her youth. She is only 25. I would like to talk to you about her a little bit, Mr. Speaker.

Today, we are going to vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 31st time. We are wasting 2 days debating a bill that has already passed the House and that has no chance in the Senate. Rather than spending our time creating jobs, we're spending it trying to take health care away from those who need it most. One of those people, Mr. Speaker, is an individual by the name of Julie Doyle.

This is Julie. Julie is 25, as I said. Her life has already been filled with numerous roadblocks. Julie had her first heart procedure at age 12; and for the last 13 years, her life has been filled with many ups and downs, including having lost her father when she was 15. Despite numerous health issues, Julie is still very active as the captain of her softball team, as the captain of her tennis team. She is a student council member and an active community volunteer. So as you can imagine, I think she is an amazing kid. Of course, she is not a kid—she is a young woman now—but she is still quite an amazing member of our community.

Like many young people her age, Julie is dreaming of going to college, of having a successful career. She wants to study business. Her efforts were derailed about 3 years ago when she started having multiple system disorders and started blacking out. There were days when she only had the energy to crawl from the bathroom. Concussions, bruises, broken teeth became routine. Just as her condition was becoming severe, her insurance was due to end. However, because of the Affordable Care Act provision allowing young adults to stay on their parents' plans until the young adults are aged 26, Julie was able to get the health care that she needed.

Now, for the people who think it's so clever, so smart, so funny to repeal the Affordable Care Act—I don't know what they think it is—I urge them to think about Julie. Julie is worth it.

#### OPPOSITION TO REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this is day 2 of the misguided Republican attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We have been down this road 31 times with the same arguments and

the same often misleading rhetoric that does not reflect the true benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

Those who argue against it are not speaking for my 167,000 uninsured constituents who for the first time will receive health insurance coverage when the law is fully implemented. They are not speaking for the 7,000 young adults who can now stay on their parents' insurance plans until they are aged 26, or for the 510 small businesses in my district that are receiving tax credits to help maintain or expand health care coverage for their employees.

Colleagues who support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act are also disregarding the needs of minority communities in which millions suffer from persistent and life-shortening health disparities. In my largely Latino district, for example, thousands more of my constituents will have access to health care through the expansion of Medicaid, the creation of health insurance exchanges, and through the law's expansion of community health centers.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents do not want the Affordable Care Act repealed nor do the millions of Americans across our country for which the ACA has brought lifesaving benefits. This is most certainly true for women, seniors and people with disabilities.

Under the Affordable Care Act, being female can no longer be considered a preexisting condition. Women will no longer have to pay higher premiums than men, and prenatal care will finally be covered for all women in this country.

Never again will our sisters, mothers and daughters have to choose between a mammogram or putting food on the table because these lifesaving preventative health services will no longer require copayments.

As for seniors, last year, as a result of health reform, over 32 million of them received free preventative health services, and over 5 million seniors are saving close to \$4 billion on Medicare prescription drug costs as the doughnut hole closes.

Because Obama cares, our families and neighbors with disabilities will no longer live in fear of reaching lifetime limits on their insurance or of being excluded from coverage due to having preexisting conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is already working for my constituents—for women, for minority communities, for seniors, and for people with disabilities. It is time for my Republican colleagues to listen to these Americans who do not want to lose their new health benefits. The Supreme Court has upheld the Affordable Care Act. Let's stop wasting time and taxpayers' money and find solutions to the other complex issues facing our country today.

#### OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the poor will always be with us, but our job is to help raise the standards. I've got to tell you, if it were not already invented, I would say this Congress invented the words the "do nothing Congress"—do nothing.

Today is the second day that we are debating the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Let me be clear that not one single person who has come to this floor debating doing away with it doesn't have insurance, because we have the best insurance. In fact, my blood pressure is up, so I went downstairs. Because I have insurance, I was able to test my blood pressure and get some additional medication. In fact, later I was able to go to the dentist because I have insurance. Yet what we are debating is you at home not having health care, because we—everybody in this House, every Member who has come to this floor—has health care.

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Every single President, since Theodore Franklin Roosevelt, for 75 years has tried to push some form of universal health care, and I want to thank President Barack Obama. They like to say "ObamaCare." I want to say, "President Barack Obama cares, and he was able to accomplish something." Let's be clear that the President proposes, and the Congress disposes. So it had to be the Congress. It was the Democratic Congress, the Democratic Senate, and the President that passed the bill.

Instead of discussing health care repeal, we should be debating VA construction. In my State as of July 1, the VA paid an additional \$500,000 to rent a portable operating room for a project that is 95 percent complete, but we haven't had a chance on the floor to take up VA construction. We have 31 times that we're taking up repealing health care. I visited that facility last month, and I found out that it would have been a health risk not to expand the program for the veterans in that area.

People often say, "What did the Democratic House, President, and Congress do?" We passed the largest VA budget in the history of the United States of America. We took care of the veterans. We had a far-reaching budget. We gave care to the caregivers of our veterans. It goes on and on.

I really do believe to whom God has given much, much is expected. He expects us to work to empower the American people with jobs and health care. Basically "do nothing" is the label of this Congress, the Do-Nothing Congress.