

We know there are lots of higher taxes in the legislation. If we look at the impact on many people who provide health care services, the medical device manufacturers have a big tax they are dealing with, pharmaceutical companies, health insurance plans—we can go right down the list. All of those new taxes are going to get passed on, in many cases passed on to people who are not high-income earners but middle-class Americans who are trying to keep their heads above water and keep health care coverage for their family.

These are the real-world impacts of ObamaCare as we know it today. That is why I think we see, even organizations that are very sympathetic to the President, very sympathetic to his agenda, fans of his agenda, people who worked very hard to get him elected in office—the labor unions in their letter make that argument, that they worked very hard. They walked the neighborhoods. They did all of the grassroots organizing that was necessary to get the President elected. Here they are reacting to the Affordable Care Act, to ObamaCare, in the same way I think most Americans are.

That is why we consistently see public opinion polls that are very negative toward the law. In fact, there was a Rasmussen survey recently that said 55 percent of Americans disapprove of the law, 39 percent are in favor of it. But a significant and decisive majority of Americans believe this is going to be bad for them, bad for their own personal situation, finances, when it comes to covering their families but also bad for the economy and bad for jobs.

Higher premiums, higher taxes, fewer jobs, more part-time jobs, fewer full-time jobs, lower take-home pay, that is what we today know as ObamaCare. There is a better way. We could go back and start over, do this the right way; step-by-step, incrementally, deal with the challenges that we have in our health care system, and there are many of them. But it did not take a massive takeover of one-sixth of the American economy, a massive new government program, 2,700 pages of legislation, over 20,000 pages of new regulations in terms of implementation to solve the challenges we have in our health care system today.

There is a better way. I hope the feedback, if you will, the response that the President and his team are getting, not only now from those people who were opposed to it—many of us were arguing when this was being debated in the Senate that this, in fact, would be the impact. We talked about the impact on premiums because of the mandates and the new taxes. We talked about the taxes. We talked about the impact on the economy and jobs and pointed out that this was going to have an adverse, harmful impact on the ability of our economy to create jobs and to get that unemployment rate down and get people back to work in this country.

Many of us were working those arguments. Many of the organizations that were opposed to the legislation were saying the same things. Now we have those who were actually endorsing and in favor of the legislation coming out and saying it would shatter not only our hard-earned health benefits but destroy the foundation of the 40-hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class. Perverse incentives are already creating nightmare scenarios.

That is what is included in the letter that was submitted last week to the leaders in the Congress, written by major labor organizations in this country. Those are not rightwing conservatives, rightwing Republicans who are reacting this way to ObamaCare; these are allies of the President who have realized and come to the conclusion that this is incredibly problematic, not only for them and their members and the employees of a lot of companies out there with regard to the current health care benefits that they already have but also what it means for the 40-hour work week and what it means for the take-home pay for middle-class Americans across this country.

We can do better. We should do better. It is not too late. It is never too late to do the right thing. I hope that as more and more of this anecdotal and empirical evidence comes forward about the implementation of this legislation, we will do that.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:05 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 17, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

KENT YOSHIHO HIROZAWA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2016. VICE WILMA B. LIEBMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

NANCY JEAN SCHIFFER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2014. VICE CRAIG BECKER.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROGER L. NYE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. KENNETH E. TOVO

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 16, 2013:

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

RICHARD CORDRAY, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 16, 2013 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

RICHARD F. GRIFFIN, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2016. VICE WILMA B. LIEBMAN, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 13, 2013.

SHARON BLOCK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2014. VICE CRAIG BECKER, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 13, 2013.