

premiums increase, insurance is lost, and patients lose access to their doctors, we must work together to continue to replace ObamaCare with positive plans, as long introduced by Congressman Dr. TOM PRICE.

Small businessowners such as the late J.W. Hendrix warned of Big Government abuses' denying young people opportunity to fulfill the American Dream.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the New Markets Tax Credit program which is set to expire at the end of this year.

This program has proven critical toward making successful investments in communities like my own in western New York. In the city of Buffalo, New Markets investments have leveraged over \$180 million for projects, including restoration of historic Electric Tower and the development of the Innovation Center on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. Thanks to New Markets Tax Credit-leveraged funding, construction is currently underway on Roswell Park Cancer Institute's new Clinical Sciences Center.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our economy is recovering from collapse, support for programs that yield economic development and job creation is more critical than ever. I have joined my colleagues in seeking a permanent extension of this program, and I encourage our other colleagues to join us in the same pursuit.

OBAMACARE AND CHOICES

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about choices. For my constituents, ObamaCare is about tough choices and about unfair choices.

Barbara from Indianapolis recently logged on to my Web site to share her ObamaCare story, which is about her choices. She's a single mom trying to give her daughter the gift of a college education in a tough economy. President Obama's holiday gift to her, however, was a \$200 increase in her monthly premium. Barbara wrote:

For a single mother trying to put her child through college, it's too much. Where do I cut? My daughter's education? Medical coverage? A place to live? Food?

For Barbara, the choices posed by the increased premium posed by ObamaCare are tough and unfair. Too many of my constituents are being forced to make these same unfair

choices. They shouldn't have to choose between paying for college or paying for health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, our choice is clear: the law is not working. Barbara and her daughter deserve a better path forward.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking with just 8 legislative days left this year, but I believe there's still time to bring comprehensive immigration reform to this floor for a vote.

There is an incredible group of people that are fasting on the National Mall as a plea to us to pass some form of comprehensive immigration. Today marks day 22 of their fast, but their faith and commitment to change keeps them going.

These men and women are sacrificing their health, and do you mean to tell me that we can't find the humanity and compassion to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, Speaker BOEHNER? Are you kidding me?

This isn't who we are as a nation. Cesar Chavez and Mahatma Gandhi called fasting a fervent prayer, but we must do our part on behalf of the families who have been hurt by this delay of comprehensive immigration reform. I'm standing with these courageous people and immigrant families all across this Nation in demanding a vote on an immigration bill.

Let's stop this shameful delay and bring a bill to this floor for a vote by the end of the year.

THE MEDICARE OPT-OUT BILL

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at a time when Americans continue to see their health care options diminished by the President's disastrous health care law, it's critical that we work to return choice and freedom to the American people. That's why I introduced H.R. 3498, a common-sense bill that gives seniors the freedom to make their own health care decisions and opt out of Medicare.

If folks like Warren Buffett or Ross Perot want to opt out of Medicare part A but they don't want or need a government entitlement paying for their care, we should let them. This bill truly tells seniors "if you like your current coverage, you can keep it" without the risk of losing other benefits like Social Security.

Seniors want, need, and deserve the right to choose a health care plan that fits their needs. I urge my colleagues to join my efforts in returning freedom and choice to American seniors.

THE EFFECT OF BUDGET CUTS ON EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot about choices and constituents and what we should do. Well, let me say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this Nation, our Nation is at a crossroads. The decisions we make today will affect the long-term economic stability of our Nation.

Congress must pass a budget that helps grow our Nation and creates jobs. We must eliminate the sequester and invest in our future by funding Federal research and education programs. For example, in my district, Ohio State University, one of the Nation's premier research institutions, has recently experienced a 7.2 percent decrease in Federal funding because of the sequester and other budget cuts to Federal research and development.

If this downward trend continues, no question—no question—it will affect our Nation's next generation of science, discovery, and innovation while slowing jobs growth. Federal investment in research and education are put to use in places like world-class laboratories, clinical trials, and energy innovation centers. We must sustain these investments. Our Nation's economic security depends on it.

BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS FOR PROSPERITY

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are still most concerned about job opportunities and economic growth. They're concerned with their checkbooks and family budgets as the winter months and holiday seasons arrive.

All too often, Washington, D.C., makes it harder on the economy and the American people, not easier. Layer upon layer of government mandates, regulations, and taxes suffocate our struggling economy and come down hard upon the hardworking American people.

The House must remain committed to focusing on job creation, economic prosperity, and opportunities for all Americans to succeed. This week, the House will continue our efforts to put more Americans back to work by focusing on pro-jobs legislation that make it easier for our small businesses to access resources they need to expand and add employees.

We will work to pass legislation that builds on hydropower in our country, creating good-paying jobs through continuing to develop our all-of-the-above national energy policy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Congress to work together for the