

are controlled by violent thugs. These thugs often assault women and children in exchange for water. Often this water is dirty and leads to sickness and disease.

This is unimaginable for many Americans, but a reality for 780 million people on Earth who do not have access to clean water. We can fix this. That is why Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER and I have introduced the Water for the World Act. This bill uses existing taxpayer money to more effectively make clean water available to those who need it, such as digging wells in villages in Africa. According to the World Bank, for every dollar spent, at least \$4 is returned in saved health care costs and increased economic productivity.

We have it in our power to help people have clean water. It is something America can and should do. No one should be assaulted when they try to get water. It is 2013. It is time to turn on the faucet and make water universal for little girls like this.

And that's just the way it is.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the President's claim that Americans can keep the plans they know and like, to me, always appeared somewhat misinformed, if not insincere.

First of all, the law was designed to completely restructure America's health care system. Some, if not millions, of Americans were bound to lose their plans.

Plain and simple, the law was designed to have a large majority of Americans give up their health care coverage, pay higher premiums, or face a tax increase. In fact, if millions of Americans did not lose their coverage, the health insurance exchanges would be full of high-risk consumers, without healthier populations subsidizing those plans.

The President's broken promises are concerning, especially for our States dealing with this growing mess.

"This bandage may provide temporary relief," stated the insurance commissioner in my home State of Pennsylvania in response to the President's cancellation fix. However, "Pennsylvania will continue to see additional cancellations, rate increases, and significant problems due to Affordable Care Act-driven changes in the insurance marketplace."

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as most of us joined family and friends

over Thanksgiving week last week, 2,500 Afghan elders voted on a security agreement that could potentially leave thousands of United States troops in Afghanistan for at least another decade.

If the Afghan people are having a say in continued American troops in that country, at the very least this Congress should also debate and vote on any such agreement.

The war in Afghanistan has just entered its 13th year, and the need to bring our troops home remains urgent. President Karzai has recently suggested that he sees no potential security benefit from an ongoing United States security mission. I couldn't agree more, and the American people have long understood that there is no military solution in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, especially at a time now when rising income inequality and harmful sequester cuts are hurting families and communities here at home, we need to get our priorities in order and stop spending good money after bad in Afghanistan.

We have known for years of the rampant waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan, including bags of cash from the CIA being handed over in suit cases and plastic bags to corrupt Afghan government officials.

Enough is enough.

We need to end the corruption and end this war.

A BAD DEAL

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, the President has offered Iran what he describes as a "very limited, temporary, reversible sanctions relief." In this case, limited means \$20 billion in sanctions relief.

What was the world promised for the \$20 billion gift to the Iranian regime? A promise that Iran would pause, not dismantle, its nuclear weapons program for 6 months while we betray our allies and compromise Israel's ability to defend itself.

Let me tell you what this deal is like. It is like going to an auto mechanic you can't trust to fix an oil leak on your car. The mechanic says it will take 6 months to fix the leak and charges you \$1,000 up front. When you come back 6 months later, you will find that not only is the leak not fixed, but your car was stripped down and sold for parts.

As we speak, Iranian centrifuges are continuing to spin, continuing to enrich uranium, and continuing to threaten the safety of the United States and our allies.

Whether it is at your local auto shop or at the nuclear negotiating table, the American people know when they are getting a bad deal.

US-31 RIBBON CUTTING

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

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Kokomo section of the new US-31 corridor.

Indiana is called the "crossroads of America," and for great reason. With numerous interstates and highways crisscrossing our State and intersecting in Indianapolis, our geographic position and transportation network have made logistics and manufacturing critical components of our economy in America.

With that in mind, last week I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting of the new US-31 Kokomo corridor.

When the final Hamilton County section opens to traffic in 2015, a total of 32 stoplights will have been removed from US-31 between Indianapolis and South Bend, saving drivers a half hour of travel time.

The Indiana Department of Transportation also deserves great credit for completing this project nearly 2 years ahead of schedule and, so far, 40 percent below the projected budget. Washington bureaucrats could learn a lot from that efficiency.

I commend and congratulate all of the individuals, elected officials, and business and community groups involved in bringing the Kokomo corridor US-31 from the drawing board to reality.

MONUMENTS MEN

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest untold stories from World War II is a story of the brave men and women known as the Monuments Men.

This special military unit was tasked with helping to locate works of art confiscated by the Nazis and return them to their rightful owners. The Monuments Men, and women, were able to locate, preserve, and return almost 5 million cultural items, including many of the world's great works of art.

Today, there are only five surviving members, four men and one woman, of the Monuments Men. I believe the veterans who participated in these daring missions are certainly worthy and deserving of the recognition of Congress' highest expression of appreciation. That is why I am honored today to introduce legislation recognizing these heroes with a Congressional Gold Medal.

While we can never say thank you enough, I believe the Congressional Gold Medal is a worthy token of appreciation from a grateful Nation to Members of the Greatest Generation.