

Waxman in the conclusion states that “Congress needs to be able to rely on the technical and scientific information provided by federal agencies. It is hard to do so, however, when technical and scientific data that has been carefully assembled over several years is suddenly cast aside as soon as it becomes inconvenient or embarrassing.”

Senator BARBARA BOXER during the 110th Congress hearing before the Committee on Environment Public Works dated January 24th, 2008, on the Oversight of EPA’s Decision to Deny the California Waiver stated, “There remains much work to be done as we work to uncover the facts behind this decision. EPA has failed to fully respond to our request for information, which I will go into in the question time. I have never seen anything like it. We asked for the documents. First we didn’t get them when they were promised.” She then says that “the mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. The Administrator’s decision does neither. The people who pay the Administrator’s salary have a right to know how he came to a decision that is so far removed from the facts, the law, the science, the precedent, States’ rights and all the rest that goes with it.”

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, later this year, the nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of Medicare, one of the most consequential acts of social justice in American history.

Today, we mark the fifth anniversary of the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, which will surely take its place in the pantheon of America’s greatest laws, alongside the Social Security Act, the GI Bill, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Like those great achievements, the Affordable Care Act, or “ObamaCare,” was vehemently opposed and derided by its adversaries, who said it was too costly, would not work, was unnecessary, or would change the character of America for the worse.

Like the critics of Social Security, Medicare, and the GI Bill, all of whom are silent now, they are wrong.

The Affordable Care Act has been an unqualified success.

This historic legislation has extended affordable health coverage to tens of millions of Americans, and has helped to bring peace of mind to many of those for whom relief seemed far out of reach.

The Affordable Care Act was driven by a simple premise: that citizens of the most prosperous nation on earth should not be forced to choose between their health and their financial security.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, the number of uninsured Americans has fallen by nearly one third, or roughly 16 million people.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant

amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and people with disabilities, who have saved \$1,600 each on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country’s most at risk citizens; people who are working hard and struggling make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in my home state of Texas.

In Texas alone:

10,695,000 individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—will no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history.

4,889,000 uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the Marketplace.

5,198,000 individuals on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

In the first ten months of 2013, 233,100 seniors and people with disabilities saved on average \$866 on prescription medications.

357,000 young adults have gained health insurance because they can now stay on their parents’ health plans until age 26.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the ACA has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade, and helped save taxpayers \$116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than \$5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the law’s critics, private insurance companies have leapt at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remain obsessed with destroying this law, and with unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

With 56 votes to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act, Republicans have repeatedly ignored the evidence and failed to suggest workable alternatives.

It is time for Republicans to abandon their fixation and join with us in celebrating the health and economic security that this landmark law affords every American.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL
DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUB-
MITTED BY THE NATIONAL
LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my strong support for S.J. Res. 8 and I plan to vote yes today.

Late last year, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) finalized a new rule empowering unions with the ability to hold “ambush elections.” Whereas the current median amount of time to prepare for union elections is 38 days, this rule dramatically lowers the time to as few as 11 days. This does a great disservice to both employers and workers, who would have little time to adequately prepare for elections, much less to communicate and understand the pros and cons of such a move.

Even more dangerously, the ambush elections rule also requires employers to hand over workers’ personal information without their consent, including cell phone numbers, email and home address, and work schedules. This is a grave breach of privacy, with inadequate protections for how that information is handled, and could subject workers who oppose joining the union to intimidation tactics at all hours of the day, no matter where they are.

I strongly support this joint resolution of disapproval and want that support to be made part of the record. I hope the President realizes the folly of this misguided and dangerous regulation and signs this resolution into law now that it has passed both the House and Senate.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Lockheed Martin for their leadership and pioneer attitude within Jefferson County and our global economy.

Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs 112,000 people worldwide and is engaged in research, development, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. Lockheed Martin Space Systems, headquartered in Jefferson County, is one of five Lockheed Martin business areas and has demonstrated significant and sustained growth to Jefferson County and Colorado’s economic success.

Most recently, Lockheed Martin and Jefferson County made history with NASA’s Orion test launch on December 5, 2014. Orion is the next-generation spacecraft designed to transport humans to destinations beyond low Earth orbit, going 15 times deeper into space than the International Space System at 3,600 miles from Earth.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lockheed Martin for their well-deserved Pioneer Award. I know we will see great things from them in the future.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY D. HICKEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kelly D. Hickey of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Kelly planted three Autumn Blaze Maple Trees around the perimeter of the College View Elementary preschool playground. The work ethic Kelly has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes about his commitment to serving his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Kelly and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE SHUBERT THEATER OF NEW HAVEN ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Shubert Theater of New Haven as they mark their 100th Anniversary. Nationally renowned and locally beloved, this community treasure has been bringing the magic and beauty of theater to generations of patrons. The "Birthplace of the Nation's Greatest Hits," the Shubert is the heart of New Haven's arts community and its century of success is a reflection of the incredible contributions the Shubert has made—not only in Connecticut but across the country.

Designed by New York architect Albert Swazey and built by New Haven's H.E. Murdock construction company, Lee and JJ Shubert opened the doors of their newest theater Friday, December 11, 1914. Theatergoers and critics alike were not only impressed with the opening show but with the playhouse itself. It quickly became a favorite among the theater community as well, often sought after to try out shows before bringing them to Broadway.

Away We Go, later renamed Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, The Sound of Music, and Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire all had their world

premieres at the Shubert. It is also where countless actors received their first professional acclaim—Marlon Brando, Humphrey Bogart, Katharine Hepburn, Gene Kelly, Robert Redford, Shirley MacLaine, Sidney Poitier, James Earl Jones, Liza Minnelli, and former First Lady Nancy Reagan just to name a few.

While the Shubert has had its share of ups and downs, even threatened with destruction, in 1976, the local community has fought to protect this invaluable piece of our arts community. Today, in addition to Broadway offerings and performances of dance, cabaret, popular music and entertainment, the Shubert also runs comprehensive education and outreach programs. The Shubert is a cornerstone of New Haven's arts community and as such it also seeks to support local artists and organizations. In fact, just recently, the Shubert collaborated with the local theater company, A Broken Umbrella Theatre, to bring *Seen Change!* to stage. Written, directed, produced, and starring a variety of local actors, it was a wonderful celebration of the Shubert, its remarkable history, and the magic and wonder the theater brings to its audiences.

The Shubert Theater of New Haven is a beloved local treasure that has left an indelible mark on our community as well as the world of the performing arts. Today, as it marks its centennial anniversary, its leadership can be very proud of all that it has accomplished and continues to contribute to our community. I have no doubt that the Shubert will remain a beacon of Broadway for generations to come—its ghost light never darkened. Happy 100th Anniversary and best wishes for another century of success.

CELEBRATING THE WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 125 years of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Today, we recognize the Waterbury Regional Chamber for its influence in stimulating the economy in Greater Waterbury and helping businesses thrive for well over a century. The Chamber continues to act as a strong advocate for local businesses in the 5th Congressional District. The ever-changing world that we face today requires a Chamber of Commerce that guides local businesses through the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly global economy, and the Waterbury Regional Chamber has demonstrated its capacity to meet these needs.

The City of Waterbury and surrounding region boast a highly-skilled workforce, thriving businesses, a well-renowned history of manufacturing, and a diverse cultural background. I thank the Chamber for working with these strong economic influences to meet the demands of a 21st century economy. This year's celebration of 125 years of community involvement is a true testament to the positive impact and long-term planning of the Waterbury Regional Chamber.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber's current President and CEO, Lynn Ward, has led the

organization for over 30 years. She does a tremendous job bringing resources to the businesses of Greater Waterbury and raising the region's profile in our state. I am proud to work with her to advocate for our community's businesses.

Thank you and congratulations to the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to many more years of your continued success.

HONORING JEREMY ROMERO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeremy Romero, a man of great integrity who has dedicated his life to protecting our communities in New Mexico.

From a young age Jeremy wanted to be a cop; his father and two uncles were police officers and his younger brother started attending a police academy in North Carolina. It is, and has always been Jeremy's dream to join his family and make it his career to protect the public, and serve our great State of New Mexico. In August, 2011, Jeremy had that opportunity. He was hired into the New Mexico Department of Public Safety's prestigious Special Investigations Division (SID) as an undercover agent.

For Jeremy it was a dream come true, and yet only two months into the job, all that would come to an end. Jeremy witnessed a crime being committed by a fellow officer. He knew the risk of being a whistleblower, but firmly believed in his commitment to upholding and preserving the law.

Jeremy reported the issue to his superiors, and shortly after, lost his job. In an interview with the Albuquerque Journal, Jeremy explained the strain it put on his daily life, and how he applied to more than 20 different law enforcement agencies before eventually being hired at the Laguna Police Department and later the Corrales Police Department.

On January 21, 2014, Jeremy's life would forever change. While on an early-morning patrol, Jeremy noticed two fugitives speeding down the street in a stolen car. Jeremy quickly followed in pursuit, speeding up in an attempt to ascertain the license plate numbers. Before Jeremy could get a reading on the license plate, his car slipped off the road and collided into a guide rail, telephone pole and adobe wall.

The crash was devastating for Jeremy—he burst a vertebra in his lower back that nearly paralyzed him, had to have pastes made to sculpt a new vertebra, and underwent several emergency surgeries. Doctors predicted that Jeremy would never walk again. Jeremy knew they were wrong; he may have broken some bones, but that did not mean his spirit was broken. In an interview, Jeremy explained: "If you tell me I'm not going to do something, I'm going to work twice as hard to prove you wrong." Jeremy did exactly that. In the face of adversity, Jeremy prevailed.

Jeremy is now using revolutionary robotics to help him walk again and continues to break barriers with the technology. Jeremy's story is