

Unfortunately, expanding EPA regulations threatens to bring much of the waste coal industry's activity to a halt. That would leave billions of dollars of vital cleanup unfinished and hurt jobs and Pennsylvania's energy security.

A lot of people in Washington like to offer up a false choice between protecting the environment and economic opportunity. The success of the coal refuse industry shows that that does not have to be the case.

This week I am introducing a commonsense approach to keeping these facilities open while holding them to tough standards. We are calling this bill the Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act, or SENSE Act, for short.

The bill addresses problems arising from two of the EPA's more expansive rules: the mercury and air toxin standards and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, known as CSAPR.

Under CSAPR, which relies on allocations to limit emissions, we are requesting that the status quo remain in place with regard to sulphur dioxide emissions from bituminous coal refuse-fired power generators. Due to the nature of the coal refuse, these facilities would be unable to comply with a new standard that is expected in 2017. Under the mercury and air toxin standards rule, we are proposing to hold the industry to alternative limits for hydrogen chloride or sulphur dioxide emissions.

Consistent with this legislation, Senators TOOMEY and CASEY recently offered an amendment in the Senate exempting these plans from both the MATS and CSAPR requirements. While this proposal was supported by a bipartisan majority of Senators, it failed to achieve the supermajority required to pass.

This shouldn't be a controversial or partisan issue. We want to hold this industry to high standards, but standards that they can actually achieve. My bill will help keep the coal refuse industry in business so that the local community, economy, and environment will continue to reap the benefits. The fact that this industry performs such a vital environmental function means that we owe it to our communities to recognize these circumstances and do everything we can to allow them to keep up the good work.

Dennis Simmers, an engineer with Colver Power Project in Cambria Township and a long-time resident of the area, told me why he hopes my legislation is signed into law and the waste coal industry can go forward. "It's personal," he said. "Three generations of my family lived in Nanty Glo. Unfortunately, they died without ever seeing this environmental catastrophe corrected. There is a real shot now that I will see that in my lifetime."

With my legislation, I am working to ensure his vision becomes a reality.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTHCARE WITHIN CA-46

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today a little disheartened, disheartened because my colleagues across the aisle seem to have forgotten about the priorities and the needs of the American people.

For an unprecedented 61st time, the majority has introduced a measure that would cripple the landmark Affordable Care Act. The consequences of such a budget measure would be terrible. Millions of Americans would lose their healthcare insurance, and premiums for others would skyrocket.

The majority claims that the ACA somehow is ineffective, costly, or illegal. They claim that it doesn't work. Well, they are just wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is working. It has been working. It has been working in my hometown. It has been working in Orange County, California, under the Affordable Care Act, the CHIP, and Medicaid. We have expanded insurance to over 12.3 million individuals; 2.6 million of those individuals are Latinos.

Costs under the ACA have been greatly reduced, and the ACA is projected to save the United States \$200 billion in the next decade and over \$1 trillion in the second decade. I would say that those statistics speak to the success of the Affordable Care Act.

The ACA has had great success back home in my home district. In Orange County, we had the highest number of new people enroll into the healthcare benefit exchange that we have in California. Currently, there are more than 1.3 million Californians that now have health insurance that didn't have it before.

See, Mr. Speaker, before the enactment of the ACA, the folks in my district—well, they considered it a luxury. They chose between buying clothes for their kids to go to school or putting food on the table. Or worse, they used home remedies.

I know because I grew up on home remedies. I grew up not going to the doctor. I grew up trying all these crazy things at home, having a simple flu, and being out of school for 10 days because we couldn't afford to go to the doctor. It is pretty unacceptable in today's time, Mr. Speaker, in the greatest country in the world.

Health care should be a right, not a privilege. We need to continue moving forward. We need to continue moving our communities from a culture of coping to a culture of coverage.

No longer do people have to worry about being denied for their existing health conditions. Quality health insurance is now available to all who seek it. Because nearly 4 out of every 10 people in my district are Medicare recipients, I understand how important

this legislation is for working families; so I will continue to work to join with my community-based organizations to ensure that our people are covered.

So tomorrow, when my colleagues across the aisle once again vote—number 61—to defund the Affordable Care Act, I would like for them to think about all the families in America that will suffer when that is passed; think of all the families; think about all the kids and their home remedies.

My colleagues in the minority and I have stood up. We have tried to explain to the other side the importance of the Affordable Care Act, only to have our passionate voices fall on deaf ears.

Despite these continuous attacks against an existing law which has improved the lives of millions of Americans, I will continue to fight for quality health care for the folks back home in my district.

OBAMACARE IS FAILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk for a few minutes this morning about the families that are suffering under the false promises of ObamaCare. We are beginning to see this play out all across the country. The ObamaCare failings are very pronounced; and you see them in the communities; and you understand how they are affecting lives.

Now, the supporters of ObamaCare continue to have blinders on about this; and they don't want to admit that the entire premise is a theory, not proven. It was change for the sake of change. It was change for the sake of centralized control. It was change for the sake of the arrogance of the elite making decisions for millions of Americans and determining what kind of health care they were going to be able to access.

We all remember that the press said that the biggest fabrication of the decade was, if you like your doctor, you can keep him. It is all so unfortunate.

I want to look, Mr. Speaker, for just a few minutes at what has happened with these co-ops that are now failing. The failings are very pronounced, and they truly have an imprint and an effect in our communities.

One month before the ObamaCare-funded Oregon co-op announced its failure in bankruptcy, the CEO said she saw a "long health life in front of us." They had a \$50 million Federal loan, if you will, and had managed to enroll only 10,000 people. Now the taxpayers are beginning to wonder if that loan is ever going to be repaid.

Take a look at Colorado. In the Colorado co-op, the same story; 72 million taxpayer dollars, and they enrolled 83,000 people. Do the math on what the enrollment alone is costing the American taxpayer, and do the math on what kind of healthcare access could

have been if individuals were going straight to the marketplace.

We have heard Kentucky celebrated as being such a success story and the poster child for the success of ObamaCare. Here is the truth: they have \$146 million in Federal loans and then another \$65 million in an emergency solvency loan. They have 51,000 people in a co-op that is not functioning.

And in Tennessee, where our co-op is going under, \$73 million, and they had 27,000 people enrolled.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to say, oh, ObamaCare has been such a success. If you do the math and look at the numbers, I take issue with that. I would not term that a success. I term it a failure.

I wonder if the people in Oregon and Colorado, Kentucky and Tennessee are feeling success as they, once again, find out that simply having an insurance card is not health care. It is access to the queue, if the company is solvent and the queue exists.

Imagine, four States, a collective nearly \$500 million for experiments. That is half a billion taxpayer dollars for experiments in health insurance delivery, all before anybody received any mental health help or received a single mammogram or a single child's vaccine.

We know that ObamaCare is too expensive to afford; and, for all too many, it is too expensive to use once they get the insurance. It is proving to be a failure.

VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong support for the people and nation of Israel and to wholly condemn the horrific acts of violence targeting innocent civilians.

My heart goes out to the families of the victims. All people have the right to live in peace and security, and every nation has the right to take actions to protect its citizens.

As chaos envelopes Israel from all borders, we must stand stalwartly with our strongest ally in the region. Over the past month, unprovoked Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians, including children, police officers, and members of the IDF, have increased to shocking levels.

Perhaps even more disturbing are the Palestinian leadership's recent incitements to violence. In a September 30 address, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the United Nations, saying that Palestinians would no longer be bound by their commitments to the Oslo Accords. One day later, Palestinians ambushed two Jewish Israelis, Rabbi Eitam and Naama Henkin, murdering them in front of their children.

Since then, barbaric terrorist attacks against civilians, including stabbings, rock throwing, and deliberate car crashes, have become all too commonplace.

□ 1030

We have seen a 15-year-old teenager stabbed in Jerusalem, two rabbis stabbed and killed in the Old City, five people attacked with a screwdriver in Tel Aviv, and a driver intentionally hitting civilians at a bus stop, then getting out of the car with a sharp object and causing more bloodshed and destruction in broad daylight.

These are only some of the innocent victims of this deplorable violence. Rather than showing leadership and calling for common civility, President Abbas and other Palestinian leaders have chosen to further incite violence.

President Abbas has perpetuated false accusations about the Israeli Government's treatment of Palestinians and undermined the Israeli Government's assurance that it seeks to maintain the status quo on the Temple Mount.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to support the United States' longstanding policy of supporting our partners for peace in the region to reach a two-state solution. However, the Palestinian Authority's words and lack of action to quell the violence calls into question those partnerships.

I call on the international community to speak out against these brutal terrorist attacks. In addition, we must put pressure on those who are taking inflammatory actions that deliberately fuel tensions.

Just yesterday six countries submitted a resolution to UNESCO with the sole intention of delegitimizing Jewish history in our own Holy Land. This is disgraceful. I applaud the efforts of this administration to oppose this harmful and incendiary resolution.

We must unequivocally condemn terrorist attacks and actions wherever and whenever they take place. These violent attacks against Jews in Israel are part of growing anti-Semitism around the globe. Tragically, over the past few years in particular, we have seen a rise in anti-Semitism from the streets of Paris to the streets of Miami Beach in my district.

Around the world, we have seen the spread of a violent and depraved ideology aimed at crushing the values that we hold dear: the freedom to practice and celebrate our own diverse religions and cultures; the right to express ourselves in print and in speech; the right to live in our homelands and walk in our streets with dignity, respect, and safety. We must stand up and speak out whenever these rights are threatened.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, I am proud to advocate for strong funding and cooperation with Israel on matters of mutual interest.

As our strategic and democratic ally, we must bolster efforts to ensure that Israel has the necessary resources she needs to be secure and confront the violent threats against her. The rise in violence in Israel and of anti-Semitism more broadly is deeply troubling to me, as a lawmaker who values and respects the strong U.S.-Israel relationship; but it also impacts me more personally, as a Jew who feels a significant and historic connection to the land of Israel.

No nation on Earth can be expected to sit back and take these kinds of attacks on her citizens without responding.

President Abbas and Palestinian leaders must take clear and meaningful steps to stop this violence and encourage unity and a return to the path toward a peaceful two-state solution. There is absolutely no justification for violence against innocent civilians under any circumstances, and I call for those responsible for these vicious terrorist attacks to be brought to swift justice.

I proudly and firmly stand behind Israel's right to defend herself against malicious, brutal terrorist attacks from outside her borders and from within, and call on others here and around the world to do the same.

NDAА VETO THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House for 5 minutes and talk about what the President is saying he is going to do on the NDAA.

The President is determined to end his second term on a spending spree, and that spending spree will threaten the national defense of this country and hold our military hostage. He is showing his lack of leadership by threatening to veto the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, does this President not understand that the NDAA provides the resources for the military to do their jobs, to protect our great Nation and the freedom that we all enjoy?

The President is willing to jeopardize our national security in favor of more welfare programs. He threatens this reckless veto in spite of the fact that the NDAA has passed for 53 years in a row, a rare display of bipartisanship in this city.

The American people have had enough of political games. They are tired of them. Just turn on the radio and television, and see if you can't learn that. It is especially important when it jeopardizes the men and women of our military and our national security.

It is hard to find a worse example of leadership than a Commander in Chief who is so irresponsible that he is willing to deny his military resources and sacrifice the security of our Nation