The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

BROADER OPTIONS FOR AMERICANS ACT

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 379, I call up the bill (H.R. 2579) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the premium tax credit with respect to unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 379, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2579
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Broader Options for Americans Act”.

SEC. 2. PREMIUM TAX CREDIT ALLOWED WITH RESPECT TO UNSUBSIDIZED COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.

(a) In General.—Section 36B(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—
(1) by inserting after “in section 9832(b)(9)” the following: “offered in the individual health insurance market within a State (as defined in section 9802(f)(2)(C)), or any unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage,”.
and
(2) by striking paragraph (1) and by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

(b) Certification of Unsubsidized COBRA Continuation Coverage.—Section 36B(g) of such Code is amended by striking “subsection (f)(4)” and inserting “subsection (f)(4)(A)”.

(c) Unsubsidized COBRA Continuation Coverage.—For purposes of this section—
(1) in general.—The term “unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage” means COBRA continuation coverage the payment of applicable premiums (as defined in section 4980B(j)(4) for which is sold to the obligation of the taxpayer.
(2) COBRA continuation coverage.—The term “COBRA continuation coverage” means COBRA continuation coverage provided pursuant to section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 36B(g) of such Code is amended by striking “subsection (f)(4)” and inserting “subsection (f)(4)(A)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment is agreed to.

Amendment of Section 36B as Amended by American Health Care Act of 2017.

Whenever in this section an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the reference shall be considered to be made to such section as amended by the American Health Care Act of 2017 and shall apply (if at all) to months beginning after December 31, 2019.

Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply on the enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017 and shall apply (if at all) to months beginning after December 31, 2019, in taxable years ending after such enactment.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill currently under consideration.

There was no objection.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to add my thoughts and prayers for our colleague and friend, Congressman Steve Scalise, and the victims of yesterday’s shooting. May God be with them during this time.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, Broader Options for Americans Act, is before us today.

We have all heard about COBRA continuation coverage, which allows someone with group health insurance who experiences a qualifying life event to keep their job-based coverage when they no longer have a job and, most importantly, their plan’s networks of providers—doctors, hospitals, et cetera—for a certain amount of time.

Currently, consumers with COBRA coverage, who could face a cost of up to 52 percent more per month than premiums are not eligible for ObamaCare’s Federal subsidies.

My bill allows individuals who pay for the full cost of such continuation of coverage to qualify for the tax credit established under the American Health Care Act.

This allows those consumers, including clergy, church lay workers, and their dependents who are experiencing similar circumstances and who get their coverage through church plans, who have been affected by sudden life changes to receive assistance to pay for their unsubsidized health premiums.

This bill represents another step forward in our continuing work to help Americans access more options for true patient-centered healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, this hits close to home for me. As a high school student, my dad lost his job of 25 years. I think the gentleman from Massachusetts has heard that story before. We, as a family, lost our healthcare and went into COBRA coverage.

This is a solution that impacts people across America, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express, again, as I did earlier, the support we have for the Capitol Police and others for the good work they do every single day and extend our best wishes to Majority Whip Scalise.

Mr. Speaker, this hits close to home for me. My friend, Mr. TIBERI, who is managing time on the Republican side, said he was, I think, 17 years old. If he were here and had supported the Clinton healthcare bill, that never would have happened. That would be another way that we might want to look at.

Mr. Speaker, as I said a bit ago, this is an unusual procedure. We are being asked to amend legislation that left the institution. Heaven knows where the Republican healthcare bill rests today. The President calls it mean; the Senate won’t tell us where they are, as they write the bill, and when it might emerge; and we find ourselves offering amendments to something that is not going to happen.

H.R. 2579, the Broader Options for Americans Act, would allow premium tax credits to be used for unsubsidized COBRA coverage under TrumpCare. Unfortunately, this does nothing to fix the AHCA, the underlying measure this bill intends to amend.

Older Americans are likely to rely on COBRA, and the AHCA would allow insurers to charge older Americans up to five times more than they charge younger Americans. The tax credits in H.R. 2579 would not make COBRA coverage any more affordable for the American people. In addition, it could potentially weaken the risk pool coverage because it would encourage older and sicker workers to remain on COBRA who could hurt small businesses.

This is simply a backdoor way for States to discriminate against existing conditions.

Because of weakening essential healthcare in the underlying
Mr. Speaker, on a personal basis, I have a tremendous amount of love and respect for Mr. NEAL. We, obviously, have a disagreement. I tell my daughters about how a bill becomes law, and I don’t need to tell the gentleman how a bill becomes law, but we certainly. I think, believe that there are opportunities to not only improve what you say is the Affordable Care Act but the bill that we passed. That is what we are doing today.

I hope to work with him to continue to do that, as the Senate passes its own bill, and, hopefully, go to a conference committee. Hopefully, the gentleman will be on that conference committee.

Mr. NEAL. Will the gentleman yield? Mr. TIBERI. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. NEAL. What is a conference committee? When is the last time one of these committees met to produce a product? Mr. TIBERI. Reclaiming my time. I do not think there are committees of people who have insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I am in favor of the Affordable Care Act. There is a chance to do that. I would also like to remind my friend and colleague from Massachusetts—what a difference a year makes that there are millions of Americans in my State alone who have insurance but don’t have the choice of provider they once had or the choice of a hospital they once had. That is pretty traumatic.

The Speaker pro tempore. The yeas and nays were ordered. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 267, nays 144, not voting 19, as follows:

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on that I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a motion to reconsider the vote on passage of H.R. 2372 is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING GRATEFULNESS FOR THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE ATTACK ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON JUNE 14, 2017, AND EXPRESSING HOPE FOR A FULL RECOVERY FOR THE INJURED

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the Capitol Police and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House and, further, ask unanimous consent that it be read in full.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Clerk will report the resolution.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 385

Whereas on June 14, 2017, an armed gunman opened fire at a practice for the annual Congressional Baseball Game for Charity, wounding five individuals;

Whereas United States Capitol Police Special Agents Crystal Griner, David Bailey, and Henry Cabrera responded decisively to the attack, risking their own lives to save the lives of others;

Whereas Special Agent Griner, who has been a member of the Capitol Police since July 2008, was wounded in the course of confronting and subduing the attacker;

Whereas Special Agent Bailey, who has been a member of the Capitol Police since April 2008, was wounded in the course of confronting and subduing the attacker;

Whereas Matthew (Matt) Mika, who was formerly a legislative aide for Representative Nick Smith, Representative Dave Camp, and Representative Tim Walberg, was wounded in the attack;

Whereas Zachary (Zack) Barth, a legislative aide to Representative Roger Williams, was injured in the attack;

Whereas Representative Steve Scalise, who has served the first congressional district of Louisiana since 2008, husband of Jennifer Scalfise and father to Madison and Harrison, was wounded in the attack: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deep gratitude to United States Capitol Police Special Agents Griner, Bailey, and Cabrera and asks their colleagues in the Capitol Police to continue to protect us, and to do so heroically;

(2) expresses its appreciation for the daily courage and dedication of the United States Capitol Police who protect the Capitol grounds, Members of Congress, and the public, to whom the Capitol belongs;

(3) expresses its thanks to the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, and Alexandria Fire Department for responding swiftly and effectively to aid the United States Capitol Police officers on the scene;

(4) expresses its thanks to the first responders and health care professionals who tended to the victims;

(5) expresses its hope for a speedy and full recovery for the injured;

(6) reaffirms that an attack on any Member of Congress is an attack on every Member, on the institution, and on the very principle of representative democracy; and

(7) stands firm in its belief that violence has no place in a pluralistic society where differences are settled through debate, ballots, and a legislative process, which rests at the bedrock of our representative democracy.

The resolution was agreed to. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.