

for all Americans. But in the meantime, the ACA is helping 22 million Americans, including 1 in every 10 Granite Staters. We should build on those successes.

I urge my colleagues on the Republican side to resist the temptation to repeal the law, especially without a plan that ensures affordable coverage for all Americans.

OBAMACARE'S MARKETPLACE

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, as a medical provider, I understand how critical and necessary patient choice and input is to the overall quality of our healthcare system. Put simply, patients are better off when they are equipped to make their own decisions.

Unfortunately, ObamaCare limits patient choice, as outlined in this chart. In fact, in the ObamaCare marketplace, patients in two-thirds of our country are limited to a choice of one or two insurers. Across five entire States, patients have only one option. To me, the marketplace looks more like a government-created monopoly under a system where every American is required by law to purchase the product.

To make matters worse, the onerous mandates in the law have led to restricted physician networks. So not only do patients have little choice regarding their insurers, they are also limited to what physicians they can see.

It turns out we can't keep our doctors even if we like them. That is why we are offering a Better Way plan that expands choice and empowers patients.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, to know how high the stakes are in the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, you only have to listen to your constituents. One of the many I have heard from is Kevin Wittbrodt from Warren, Michigan, who writes: "I'm a Marine Corps veteran, and I'm covered by the VA system, but my wife isn't. She has kidney disease and I've found it hard to get coverage for her with the preexisting condition . . . but I found an affordable plan under the ACA. This allows for continued treatment and she's still with me."

ACA is not collapsing, contrary to what the Speaker is saying. The Republicans are trying to sink ACA while it is very much afloat and alive for Kevin, his wife, and millions and millions of others. Republicans have been promising a plan for 7 years and never delivered. They will not deliver now for all of America.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, H.R. 437. Last year in Florida alone, we witnessed terrorism, major hurricanes, and the outbreak of the Zika virus. We need to be prepared for these types of emergencies, and we need to make sure our first responders have the tools they need to keep us safe.

My bill enhances medical preparedness and promotes the stockpiling of medical countermeasures. This includes medical kits, protective gear, ventilators, and more. Importantly, the legislation uses existing grant funds to accomplish this. It does not require new or additional funding.

This Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act ensures we take these critical steps now so we are ready in case of crisis. In the wake of an emergency, our first responders bravely risk their lives on behalf of our safety. I introduced this bill to protect the public and protect our protectors.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Saint James Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina.

As the third oldest African American church in Greensboro, Saint James is rich in history and tradition. Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, Saint James embraces the theme: 150 Years, Celebrating Our Walk-in Faith and Service.

It is rare but wonderful to find a group of individuals who have thoroughly enriched their community through dedicated service and good works. It has been my unique honor to represent the good people of Saint James Presbyterian both in North Carolina and in the Congress for more than 30 years. Saint James has helped make Greensboro a more just and peaceful community, and for that, I am immensely proud.

Congratulations, once again, Saint James, on your anniversary—a century plus five decades. I look forward to witnessing the many ways in which Saint James will continue to thrive during its next 150 years.

LIGHT UP STATE COLLEGE ATTEMPTS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

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

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the mercury dropped to record lows this week in Pennsylvania, I rise to highlight an upcoming cold-weather event in State College, Pennsylvania.

The Light Up State College will attempt to break a Guinness World RECORD next month by lighting more than 3,000 ice luminaries on Allen Street between College Avenue and Beaver Avenue at 6 p.m. the first Saturday in February.

Now, you may ask: What is an ice luminary? According to Guinness, ice luminaries are cup-shaped structures made purely out of ice that hold a light inside. Those interested in helping break this record can pick up a do-it-yourself ice luminary kit in downtown State College.

The current world record contains 2,561 separate lanterns and was set in 2013 by the residents of a small town in Sweden. They have been making ice luminary lanterns to coincide with a nearby winter market for the past 10 years.

Light Up State College is a partnership of three groups: Centre Foundation, Make Space, and the Knight Foundation. Organizers have asked individuals in State College to commit to making ice luminaries, as more than 2,000 are still needed to help put State College over the line and on the map in the Guinness Book of World Records. This record-breaking event will take place in State College on Saturday, February 4.

I wish them the best of luck.

FIGHTING FOR MEDICARE

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, what is the message?

I rise today because I am fighting for Medicare, and I oppose any attempts to balance the budget on the backs of seniors by privatizing Medicare.

For over 50 years, Medicare has guaranteed health care to all Americans 65 years or older and continues to do so for more than 50 million Americans today. Seniors, like my constituent Linda and her mother, who rely on Medicare for their healthcare needs, do not want Republicans to dismantle it.

What is the message, Mr. Speaker?

In my home State of Ohio, about 2 million seniors and disabled individuals, including 1 million women, 260,000 African Americans, are at risk of losing their Medicare benefits if Republicans privatize it.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to fight for Linda, her mother, for Janet and Mary and Robert and many other seniors who count on Medicare for their doctor's visits, their prescription assistance, and many other medical needs.

Mr. Speaker, what is the message?

We cannot let our seniors down. Democrats will fight to preserve Medicare to protect our seniors for generations to come.

STRENGTHEN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT—DON'T REPEAL IT

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand against the plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I believe my job as a Member of Congress is to work every day to improve the quality of life for all Americans. If my colleagues and I are going to do our job, access to affordable, quality health care is the very foundation of that.

We know for a fact that the Affordable Care Act is working. Repealing it would put millions at risk of losing access to health care in a country that I know is the greatest. I ask today: Which family should not have access to quality health care?

Repealing the ACA would also have a crippling effect on our economy. Jobs will be lost. My State, Florida, is one that will be hit the hardest. Almost 181,000 Floridians would be at risk of losing their jobs almost immediately if the ACA were to be repealed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think long and hard about the people and work to strengthen and not repeal the Affordable Care Act.

REPEALING WITHOUT REPLACING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WOULD HARM OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am Congressman RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY from the great Eighth District of Illinois. I have the honor of representing the hardworking families of Chicago's west and northwest suburbs.

Before I took the oath of office last week, I was the president of small businesses in the Chicago area. As a small-business man, I stand here to say that repealing without replacing the Affordable Care Act would harm our economy and, with it, our working and middle class families.

Across our Nation, repealing without replacing the Affordable Care Act would destroy up to 3 million good-paying jobs and destroy \$1.5 trillion in economic activity. Across Illinois, repealing without replacing the ACA would cost upwards of 100,000 jobs; and in the Eighth District alone, repealing without replacing the ACA would cost upwards of 4,000 jobs.

Middle class families need good-paying jobs and affordable health care. Repealing without replacing the ACA would, unfortunately, rob them of both.

DON'T MAKE AMERICA SICK AGAIN

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after years of attacking the Affordable Care Act, Republican's repeal plan will have cold, hard consequences for millions of Americans; not just the millions on the insurance exchange, but also those of our constituents who receive insurance through their employer coverage.

Beginning now, on a State-by-State basis, hospitals, doctors, patient advocates, and faith groups will be stepping forward to express the negative impacts of repealing the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act has improved Americans' lives in the areas of healthcare coverage, consumer protections, costs, and quality.

Millions will lose health coverage. The individual insurance market will be in shambles. Hospitals in our States will lose billions and the economy will be hurt.

Without health insurance, people with chronic diseases will lose care and become sicker. Without healthcare coverage, people with chronic diseases die.

It is bad for patients, budgets, and the healthcare system as a whole. Every major law that has passed Congress needs to have oversight revisions to make sure it is as effective as intended.

Congress can amend any law, but doing so in a way that will cause millions of Americans to be without insurance is just wrong.

No repeal without a replacement.

REPLACE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT—DON'T REPEAL IT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has declared its intent to immediately pass legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement. That means millions of Americans with health insurance today will lose their coverage.

That is people like Michelle from New Brunswick in my district who recently wrote to me and said: "As a survivor of childhood cancer, I am deeply concerned about the repeal of the ACA, which could bar me from obtaining health insurance due to my pre-existing conditions."

"I accessed coverage from the ACA insurance exchange when I lost my job due to a health condition in 2014-2015. Because I had affordable coverage, I was able to obtain the necessary care needed to recover from the long-term effects from cancer. Now, I'm back on my feet, working, and contributing to the American economy."

"I urge you to please defend the ACA and help the 335,000-plus cancer sur-

vivors in New Jersey who depend on it."

Mr. Speaker, the public deserves thorough and complete information on how working families will fare compared to today if the law is repealed.

Health care means life or death for American families. It is also nearly 18 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product. Often a hospital or health system is the largest employer in a county or town. We can't afford to be capricious with our approach to health care.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the burden ObamaCare has placed upon my constituents.

They have seen their healthcare costs rise while their quality of care has lowered. It is imperative that we repeal ObamaCare immediately.

I also emphasize to the folks here and at home that, as we repeal ObamaCare, we will make sure there is a stable transition period during the replacement so that people do not have the rug pulled out from under them. This transition period will give us the time we need to ensure our healthcare reform is full of truly patient-centered solutions that allow patients, families, and doctors to direct their health care.

Congress must focus on the principles of affordability, accessibility, and quality to provide the American people with genuine healthcare reform, but we can only get to that point by repealing ObamaCare now. I promise to read the bill before voting on it, unlike how it was passed.

COMMODITY END-USER RELIEF ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 238.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 40 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 238.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole