

If we do nothing, the cost of an employer-sponsored health insurance plan will reach \$24,000 a year by 2016—an outrageous increase of 84 percent.

And if we do nothing, the American economy will break under the weight of mounting debt.

Just saying no and doing nothing is not an option. And yet, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to tell us exactly that—stop, do nothing, things are okay as is.

But, Americans know that the current situation is neither okay nor sustainable. Americans may be tired of the endless media coverage regarding this debate. And, they might be frustrated by the lack of cordiality between Republicans and Democrats. But, they know that we have serious problems in our health care system that must be fixed.

And we are ready to do it.

The Democratic Congress, along with President Obama, has put together a reform measure that will put an end to abuses in the insurance industry and mandate that patients' needs be put first.

When the President signs this measure into law, immediately:

Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to children who are sick or end coverage for Americans who get sick;

Children and young adults will be allowed to remain on their parents' insurance plans up to the age of 26—helping them stay healthy during this important transition period;

Seniors who currently have a gap in their prescription drug coverage will see the cost of their brand name drugs reduced by 50 percent and the gap in their prescription drug coverage reduced by \$250. In the coming years, all gaps in coverage will be eliminated entirely.

Beyond the immediate benefits, many other important reforms will go into effect within a few years:

There will be stability and security for those who have health insurance. So, if you like the coverage you have currently, you can keep it.

Small businesses will qualify for generous tax credits to help offset the cost of insuring their employees and keep them competitive in the global economy;

The growth in medical costs will go down, as will the Federal government's deficit.

Simply put: health reform is good medicine for American families and businesses.

There's no doubt that this reform measure isn't perfect. But, like any significant change in policy, it will always be a work in progress. We will make changes as we move forward. There is no denying, however, that today's vote is historic and significant and will benefit millions of hard-working American families.

Madam Speaker, it is time for courage. Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

We must not be afraid of tomorrow, when today we can change the lives of millions of Americans for the better.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and join us in the effort to put the health of Americans before insurance company profits.

A TRIBUTE TO MAMIE WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commending Mamie Williams for her many years of service to her community.

Mamie Williams is blessed to turn 83 years old on January 11, 2010 and commits her life to cheerfully helping others. First and foremost is her mother, Irene Kibler, who turned 101 years of age September 9, 2009. Mother Mamie brought her mother to New York from Savannah, Georgia to take care of her in 2005 because the trips back and forth from New York to Savannah became extremely difficult for her, but she never ceased to do all she could. However, when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006, it became inevitable that she continue to live in New York.

Dr. Rev. Sean P. Gardner, Sr., awarded 3 plaques to her in 2001—"Mother Wisdom", "Mother Love", and "Mother Charming"—her pastor of Eastward Missionary Baptist Church located on First Avenue in Manhattan. She is Chaplain of the Senior Usher Board and a member of the Mothers' Board. In 2008 she also received an award from the Filial Piety Society.

In 2009 she received an award for "Mother of the Year" in recognition of the care she always extends unselfishly with love and compassion. That same year she was presented an award by Major Bill Greene of the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve, from Toys for Tots Christmas Club in "Grateful Acknowledgement for the Special Relationship Shared with Children." She received a Certificate of Appreciation from Volunteers of America and a Certificate of Acknowledgement from Boys Town Christmas Appeal.

Mother Mamie is a member of the Joint Public Affairs Committee (JPAC), and attended the Institute for Senior Action (IFSA), where she graduated in the spring of 2003. IFSA is a leadership advocacy training course requiring graduates to commit to pursuing action within their communities, something she's been doing for many years. She also sings with the Unique Musical Society of New York, orchestrated by Professor Robert Newton, for 25 years.

Mother Mamie has been taking care packages to hospitals and nursing homes for many years no matter how bad the weather is and gives care packages to her neighbors to take home when they stop by to visit with her. Her thought is: "store up treasures in Heaven by giving them away on earth."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Mamie Williams.

IN MEMORY OF DR. LEW ALLEN,
JR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Lew Allen, Jr., who

passed away on January 4, 2010 at the age of 84.

From the mid-1950s through the late 1960s, Dr. Allen worked as a physicist in the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, as a project officer for the Air Force Special Weapons Center, as a special staff officer for the Space Technology Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Director of the Secretary of the United States Air Force. By the 1970s, he was Director of Special Projects and Deputy Commander of Satellite Programs for the Space and Missile Systems Organization, chief of staff Headquarters Air Force Systems Command, director of the National Security Agency, and chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1982, because of Dr. Allen's expertise in the military space program, he was recruited to serve as director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL. During the years he led JPL, the laboratory launched Galileo to Jupiter, Magellan to Venus, The Infrared Astronomical Satellite Mission—the first-ever space-based observatory to perform a survey of the entire sky at infrared wavelengths—and sent the Voyager 2 spacecraft on its flybys of Uranus and Neptune. A champion of technology, Dr. Allen invested funds into research and development projects that paved the way for new capabilities in space observations.

Dr. Allen was the recipient of numerous military awards and decorations including the Department of Defense Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. Additionally, he received the George W. Goddard Award from the Society of Photo-Optical Engineering, the Goddard Memorial Trophy, and the Rotary National Space Trophy.

Two awards were named in his honor: the General Lew Allen, Jr. Award presented by the U.S. Air Force, and the Lew Allen Award for Excellence presented by JPL. The Air Force award recognizes sustained job performance, proven leadership, job knowledge and military qualities. The JPL award is given in the early years of an individual's professional career and recognizes significant accomplishments and leadership in scientific research or technological innovation.

Without Dr. Lew Allen, Jr.'s extraordinary contributions, the field of science and technology would not be the same today. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

MILITARY LEADERS' LETTER TO
CONGRESS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit this letter signed by 48 retired four- and three-star generals/flag officers urging Congress to support the President's FY11 International Affairs Budget request—given its importance to U.S. national security. These military leaders state that "balancing our military power with the range of International Affairs programs funded by the International Affairs Budget is critical to stabilizing fragile states, combating terrorism, and deterring