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 Almost 181,000 Floridians would be at risk of losing their jobs almost immediately if the ACA were to be repealed.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. KRISHNAMOORTHI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I am Congressman RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI 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 survivors 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.

□ 1239

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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