

back from insurance companies that made every single decision. Being able to know that, if, in fact, you get sick or your child has a serious health condition, they won't be denied care for the rest of their lives, and also being able to have them on your insurance as they start off in life—there are so many protections. The caps on treatments and the number of treatments and services provided have been eliminated. The Patients' Bill of Rights is absolutely critical.

I want to take just a moment to speak about another piece of this, which relates to the Patients' Bill of Rights as it relates to women. In the past, the majority of plans—about 70 percent of the insurance plans in the private sector that a woman might try to choose and purchase—wouldn't cover basic maternity care. I couldn't believe it when I first heard that. Wait a minute. It wouldn't cover basic maternity care? Now every plan has to cover basic maternity care. It makes sense. No longer is just being a woman a preexisting condition. That is part of the Patients' Bill of Rights.

The capacity to now get preventive care, a mammogram, cancer screenings, and other types of preventive care is done without a copay. So we want people to go and get that checkup and, if there is a problem, to be able to tackle it early. That is most important because it is better for the person, but it also means there will be less cost to the health care system if you can catch something early. So the Patients' Bill of Rights is really critical to that.

There is something else that is also in here that is appalling to me and goes directly to the question of women's health care, and that is the fact that this bill repeals Planned Parenthood services and, basically, guts health care for women across Michigan and women across the country. For 75 percent of the women who use a Planned Parenthood clinic in Michigan, their visit will be the only health care they get all year.

We have rural counties in northern Michigan where the only health care clinics doing preventive care—cancer screenings, basic services, OB/GYN visits—are the Planned Parenthood clinics. So many women across Michigan will see their access to health care denied if this passes and Planned Parenthood loses its funding. There were 71,000 patients, the majority of them women, in Michigan in 2014, who received care—breast exams, Pap smears, prenatal visits. Again, tying this all together, we want to cover maternity care, but we also want healthy moms and healthy babies, and that means prenatal care. We have communities in these small towns, as well as in the big cities. But it affects small towns and rural communities around Michigan, where women are going to be denied services, and it is the only clinic that is there.

I want to share a story from Laurie in Jonesville about the Affordable Care

Act and her particular situation. She said:

I have had type I diabetes for 54 years and when I needed to retire early at the age of 62 because of complications related to diabetes, I looked at the ACA for health insurance. . . . I couldn't afford COBRA.

I was able to buy health insurance at what I consider an affordable price with a small copay for my medications, the most expensive one being insulin at a retail price of \$296 a month. As you know, my preexisting conditions of type I diabetes, heart disease and a visual impairment, both complications of diabetes, would have been uninsurable without the ACA. I would have been uninsurable.

That is without the Patients' Bill of Rights, which says she has a right to be able to purchase health insurance.

In June of 2016 I was diagnosed with breast cancer, luckily diagnosed at Stage 1 in a routine mammogram. Without the ACA I wouldn't have been able to afford the mammogram or the subsequent treatment without depleting our life savings. I quickly reached my maximum out of pocket cost and while some people would complain about having to pay that, not me! My total bill so far is over \$150,000. . . .

That is for her cancer treatment.

There is the combination here of repealing Planned Parenthood funding for health clinics that allow someone like Laurie to go in and get a mammogram rather than waiting until she has a level of breast cancer that cannot be effectively treated or might otherwise cause loss of life. She was able to catch this early because she was able to get a screening—a mammogram—the kind of treatment that women in small towns all over Michigan have the capacity to do now because of the reasonable copays for care and partly because there is no copay for that mammogram but also because they have a clinic available in their community where they can get the care. All of this fits together—the access to preventive care for women, the health care clinics that are available around Michigan and around the country, and the Patients' Bill of Rights, which says you have a right to care. This is not just about the insurance company basing every decision on the fact that they want to make more money rather than cover you. You have a right to make sure that when you get sick, you don't get dropped, and, if you have breast cancer or diabetes, you have a right to have access to affordable health care.

So I would hope that our colleagues would join together, stop this craziness of trying to repeal health reform and protections for every single American, and, instead, sit down together and look at how we can make it better.

Our Republican colleagues will find willing partners in making the system more affordable and better, but we will continue to be the strongest possible opponents of ripping the system apart and creating chaos for American families.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

AMENDMENT NO. 52

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 52 and ask unanimous consent that it be reported by number.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. FLAKE, proposes an amendment numbered 52.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strengthen Social Security and Medicare without raiding it to pay for new Government programs, like Obamacare, that have failed Americans by increasing premiums and reducing affordable health care options, to reform Medicaid without prioritizing able-bodied adults over the disabled, and to return regulation of insurance to State governments)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 . . . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTIONS FOR THE ELDERLY AND VULNERABLE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protections for the elderly and vulnerable, which may include strengthening Social Security and Medicare, improving Medicaid, housing reform, and returning regulation of health insurance markets to the States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2017—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Budget Committee, I want to take this opportunity to make several points in opposition to the Republican side-by-side amendment and in support of the amendment that I have offered.

Like many Republican proposals, if you read the Republican amendment, it sounds good on the surface, but if you probe half an inch into it, you recognize what an incredible disaster it will be for working families of this country—nice words, but devastating impacts. So I want to talk about that.

No. 2, I want to talk about what it will mean if, in fact, the Republicans