

Statement of John Dingell

~~Javis, Alec~~

From: Delaney, Deb
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 7:16 PM
To: Davis, Alec
Subject: Fw: Statement for Tonight's Rules Meeting

~~Deb Delaney
Rules Committee - Democrats
202-225-9091 Main~~

~~Sent using BlackBerry~~

From: Kapustij, Cristina
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 07:15 PM
To: Delaney, Deb; Trzeciak, Kimberlee
Cc: Murtha, Katie; Barrett, Betsy
Subject: RE: Statement for Tonight's Rules Meeting

Hi Deb,

Here is the statement. Thank you.

Best,
Cristina

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Statement of Representative John Dingell

Committee on Rules

July 9, 2012

Thank you, Chairman, for allowing me to comment on H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to vote, yet again, on repealing the Affordable Care Act. This futile exercise gives the phrase "beating a dead horse" new meaning. The 31st, yes, I did indeed say 31st, attempt of this Congress to repeal in whole or in part the health care law that will improve access to health care for millions of Americans.

I resent wasting this Congress' time, as well as that of our constituents, on an attempt to capture a few more headlines or some extra broadcast minutes. What else could this be, when we all know this bill will never make it past the Senate? What else could this be when every branch of our government has had their say?

The legislative branch approved a bill that allows six million young adults to stay on their parents' insurance. The executive branch endorsed a law that provides free preventive services for tens of millions of women and men. And, most recently, the judicial branch had their say when the Supreme Court of the United States held the law that prevents 17 million children from being denied insurance for pre-existing conditions to be constitutional. ACA is a law that will soon protect the insurance of millions of adults with pre-existing conditions as well.

My Republican friends also continue their trend of lacking any sort of replacement for the bill they are repealing. While we worked hard to create and enact a bill that makes sure over five million seniors can afford their prescription drugs by avoiding the Medicare drug coverage gap, my counterparts have presented no such solutions for the people who put them in office. Sadly, they have made this into their political punt for this election year. As someone who holds this institution and the process and rules we use to function in high regard, I am appalled at this 31st futile attempt. We should be working on a solid jobs bill, compromising and creating laws to fix our budget, not bringing wasteful bills that will never become laws to the floor just for the 24-hour news headline of the week.

Now that the highest court in our land has reinforced what we already knew to be true, let us continue on with the ACA's implementation. The states are moving forward with their exchanges, guaranteeing insurance and care that is tailored to the needs of their residents. Insurance companies are moving forward to implement the new requirements such as no lifetime limits or annual limits and ensuring the majority of premium dollars are spent on medical care. And American families are planning on receiving the benefits they have heard and understand to be necessary in our health care system.

The Affordable Care Act provides a clear plan to improve the quality of the health care we are delivering, root out waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid, and provide coverage to millions of Americans who do not currently have it. If not the Affordable Care Act, then what? What is the Republican plan?

Rather than gloriously wasting the time we have on yet another repeal, Congress should be working together on the important issues that face American families: jobs, a responsible budget, a tax package that protects middle class families while asking the top three percent to pay their fair share. It is time to give up this futile effort to repeal the ACA and roll up our sleeves and work on the business of the American people.

From: Delaney, Deb
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 7:05 PM
To: Trzeciak, Kimberlee
Cc: Murtha, Katie; Kapustij, Cristina; Barrett, Betsy
Subject: Re: Statement for Tonight's Rules Meeting

Yes you can. Please send it to me and I can get it submitted for the record. I just need it before our meeting ends. Thanks

Deb Delaney
Rules Committee - Democrats

Draft Statement
Rules Committee Meeting on Rule for “Repeal Obamacare Act”

Background: You have been asked to speak share stories and pictures of constituents or friends that have benefited from Obamacare. They also asked that you stress that the Republicans should stop trying to take away middle class benefits and focus on creating jobs. Timing: 5 minutes.

Statement (Word Count: 626)

We all know the numbers – 105 million Americans no longer have lifetime limits on their health coverage, 86 million Americans received at least one free preventive service, 17.5 million children with preexisting conditions can no longer be denied health insurance coverage, and 3.1 million young adults have gained health insurance coverage as a result of Obamacare.

Despite the persistent denials from the Republicans – we all know one simple and undeniable fact - Obamacare is working for the American people.

Since we passed this historic piece of legislation, I have received countless calls and letters from my constituents thanking Congress for passing Obamacare and sharing stories about how they have benefited. People like the woman in this picture, who showed up at Daley Plaza in Chicago on the day the Supreme Court upheld Obamacare to express her joy that after surviving cancer twice, she has Obamacare to protect her from insurance companies. That’s why I’m dismayed for the American people that we will once again waste time debating a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I was touched by a story shared by my constituent Lizzie. Lizzie’s daughter Olivia suffered a stroke at birth 11 years ago. As a result, Olivia suffers from right side paralysis, epilepsy, and cognitive delays. Before Obamacare, Lizzie and her husband had to struggle to obtain health coverage for Olivia. Each time they switched employers, they had to fight to get coverage for their daughter due to her preexisting conditions. Lizzie also lived in fear of the day when Olivia could no longer be covered by their coverage and would have to seek coverage on her own.

Lizzie knew that Olivia would have difficulty finding an insurance company that would agree to cover Olivia, especially one that would offer Olivia affordable coverage, since Olivia would enter a marketplace that was hostile to individuals with preexisting conditions. Because of Obamacare, Lizzie now knows that her and her husband can keep Olivia on their health insurance until her 26th birthday. And when the time comes for Olivia to seek her own coverage, Lizzie knows that Obamacare prevents health insurance companies from refusing to cover Olivia or charge Olivia excessive premiums. Lizzie can also rest assured that Olivia will never be told that she cannot receive needed medical care because she has exceeded her annual or lifetime coverage limits. She also knows that Olivia won’t be hampered from succeeding in life because of high bills or medical bankruptcy.

Fortunately, for Olivia and her peers, they will never have the same worries as Lizzie. Thanks to Obamacare, they will never experience the sinking feeling that taking advantage of a

career opportunity with a new employer may mean their child who has a pre-existing condition cannot obtain health coverage. Thanks to the work of President Obama and the Democratic Congress, the only place such stories will occur is in the history books next to stories of uninsured elderly Americans who also once were left uninsured at alarming rates due to insurance companies' unwillingness to provide coverage to seniors.

It's been more than two years since the passage of Obamacare. The House Republicans have already held 30 votes and wasted more than 43 hours of floor time on legislation to repeal Obamacare. The Supreme Court has declared Obamacare constitutional. Millions of Americans have already received benefits and millions more are set to receive benefits in the coming years as Obamacare moves towards full implementation.

The time has come for my Republican colleagues to stop trying to take away this hard fought victory from the American people. It's time for the Republicans to get serious about creating jobs rather than fighting to take benefits away from the middle class. The American people can't afford to wait any longer.