

massive insurance companies. If it did, I would predict over 90 votes for ending the insurance monopoly.

The easiest way to stop the ultimate destruction of our personal choices in healthcare decisions is for us to keep our promise, and vote to repeal exactly what we did in the last Congress when President Obama vetoed it. That bill repealed most of ObamaCare. If the Senate is still unwilling to vote, the other alternative is to have House Republicans vote to repeal ObamaCare, then Republican Senators eliminate their cloture rule and vote a full repeal of ObamaCare. Indications were that Sen. Schumer (D-

NY) would have eliminated the Cloture rule if he had become Majority Leader, and after all — this is healthcare. Healthcare is a life or death matter.

Americans may have to force Senate Republicans to keep their promises or recall them from office, or at least try. Democrats had real courage when they passed ObamaCare without reading it. Did elected Republicans promising to repeal ObamaCare seriously think Democrats would not use every tool, tell any lie, rally the alt-left media to destroy opponents of ObamaCare, just as they did to pass it?

I spent a summer in the Soviet Union as an exchange student and

saw the reality of socialized medicine. It doesn't pay well, so the best and brightest rarely enter the profession. It becomes a 9 to 4 job with no incentive for healthcare providers to care. Consumers have no choice about treatment, no matter how inconvenient. You get whichever doctor or nurse is unlucky enough to see you. When there are egregious mistakes, too bad — you don't get to sue the government.

We must not go gentle into that nightmare. Let's rally to stop the dying of the light we have been to countries around the world as the place to come for healing. 

FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS, CONGRESS MUST REPEAL

by Michael Quinn Sullivan is the president and CEO of Empower Texans (www.EmpowerTexans.com).

Editor's Note: Americans are confused by the political play surrounding ObamaCare — and for good reasons. We trust that this *Eagle Forum Report* will help our astute readers separate the politics that confuse the truth about this most important issue. Congressman Gohmert's writing presents the federal perspective, while Michael Sullivan focuses on one state's perspective that is playing out similarly in states across the nation.

It's been a betrayal of historic and costly proportions. For nearly a decade, Republicans have promised to repeal ObamaCare if voters would just give them control of the federal government's legislative and executive branches.

Voters responded and the Republican leadership in Congress has done nothing while the predicted costs of ObamaCare mount and real people suffer.

Despite its official name — the Affordable Care Act — ObamaCare has been anything but affordable. The Act not only has exponentially grown the size of the federal government and imposed 20 new or higher taxes on the American people, but it also has made health care radically unaffordable.

Insurance rates jumped an average of 20 percent in Texas this year under ObamaCare as the federal law has reduced the availability of

insurance plans.

As U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) wrote in July, "more than a half-million Texans can't get health insurance at all" because of ObamaCare. What Texans can afford is often so expensive as to be practically useless.

Late last year the Texas Public Policy Foun-

dation, a conservative think tank based in Austin, reported that because of ObamaCare, the people of Tyler, Texas now have only one insurance carrier. The Austin American Statesman reported that with only one insurer available to them, people in Tyler have seen their insurance rates go up as much as 60 percent.

This story is repeated across the state and nation. The laws of supply and demand dictate that when a thing becomes scarcer, it becomes more

expensive. ObamaCare has made insurance more expensive by pricing insurance carriers out of the marketplace.

"Economists have been warning us for years about ObamaCare 'sticker shock,'" said TPPF's Dr. Deane Waldman at the time. "What we couldn't afford before ObamaCare is more unaffordable now."

That cost increase was tacitly acknowledged in a report published this year by the liberal Brookings Institution: "From a price perspective, premiums have increased dramatically in 2017." Meanwhile, with the recent exit of significant insurers like Scott & White, Aetna, and Cigna from the insurance exchange, large metro areas like Houston and Austin



(Continued on page 4)

are down to three insurers, while rural areas may be like Tyler and have no choice but a single insurance carrier.

Perhaps nothing is more offensive in ObamaCare than the presumption that bureaucrats in Washington can create a one-size-fits-all healthcare system for 323 million Americans living across 50 states.

To reduce costs in Texas, and elsewhere, not only must every word of ObamaCare be repealed but the decades-old grip of federal mandates on healthcare must also be abolished. States must have greater flexibility to develop the laws best suited to the people.

“Mandated coverage” drives up price and reduces coverage choices. Americans must be allowed to shop for market-based health insurance across state lines, and the states must be free to allow a market of insurance products with choices for customers.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in Congress has failed to deliver on any of their promises. Even the so-called “repeal and replace” effort of the GOP would have repealed only one of the mandates.

The Republicans’ plan would also have required taxpayers to continue subsidizing the healthcare of able-bodied adults through expanded Medicaid coverage for three more years at a cost of billions of dollars. Meanwhile, an estimated 7 million Americans would find themselves without insurance as more and more employers are forced to drop coverage.

Famed ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber admitted as much in a TV interview. “[The Republican Repeal and Replace bill] is no longer an ObamaCare repeal bill — that’s good.” He continued: “If you look at what’s criticized [about] ObamaCare, it was subsidies, it was regulations . . . this law wouldn’t really change those . . . It really [doesn’t] change very much.”

The CEO of insurance giant Aetna has described ObamaCare as putting the insurance market into a “death spiral.” ObamaCare was intended as a death sentence for what ever remained of free markets in healthcare. Obviously, the idea that motivated Gruber and others in the Obama administration when they

were designing ObamaCare was to overwhelm the health insurance system and bankrupt the market in order to make a single-payer government monopoly as the only alternative left to Americans.

If the Republican leadership actually cares about the plight of Texans, and all Americans, under ObamaCare, one would be hard-pressed to find proof.

The last six years of the Obama Administration saw Republicans constantly voting to repeal ObamaCare — when they knew that their votes did not matter. With a president sitting in the White House ready to sign a repeal, Republicans have — to borrow a phrase from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher — gone “wobbly” on the issue.

Even if it’s not a priority for Republicans in the federal Congress, those in the Texas Senate recognize the problem. In a party-line vote earlier this year, the Texas Senate approved a resolution calling for the full repeal of ObamaCare.

Republicans in Congress must follow through on their campaign promises and rid Americans of the scourge of ObamaCare. If they won’t, then the time has come to replace those congressmen with public servants who will listen to their constituents and take action. 

OBAMACARE LIES

“If you like your healthcare plan, you will be able to keep your healthcare plan.”

The TRUTH is that the healthcare plans of millions of Americans have been cancelled.

“If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor.”

The TRUTH is that ObamaCare’s narrow provider networks have NOT allowed millions of Americans to see their own doctors.

“We’re going to lower your premiums by up to \$2,500 per family per year.”

The TRUTH is that premiums have increased by double-digits every year since the law passed in 2010.

“No family making less than \$250,000 a year will see their taxes increase.”

The TRUTH is that ObamaCare contains 18 new or increased taxes, even for those making less than \$250,000 a year.

“I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits, now or in the future.”

The TRUTH is that because of ObamaCare, long-term debt is increased over \$6 trillion.

“I will sign a universal healthcare bill into law . . . that covers every American.”

The TRUTH is that ObamaCare left over 30 million Americans without health insurance.

The TRUTH can spare you needless suffering and save lives. 



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