

Statement of the Honorable Doris O. Matsui
Floor Remarks on H.Con.Res. 35, A Resolution to Defund the ACA
Thursday, April 14, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today in strong opposition to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Affordable Care Act is historic legislation that takes much needed steps to reform our health care delivery system and put patients first.

A full repeal of this law will reverse all of the popular provisions it has put in place:

The child with a preexisting condition would no longer be guaranteed acceptance to a health care plan, costing their parents thousands in out of pocket expenses.

The twenty-two year old just starting out in the world, looking for a job in this difficult economic climate, would suddenly find themselves without insurance and without the option of staying on their parent's.

The senior who has seen their prescription drug costs lowered in the past year would suddenly be paying hundreds more for necessary prescriptions.

Recently, I heard from a man in Sacramento named Michael. Michael has a 23 year old son. When his son was 22, he was kicked off of his parent's health coverage. A few months later, still unable to obtain affordable coverage, he had to undergo an emergency tonsillectomy – a fairly simple procedure. However, this common surgery cost thousands in hospital bills, and caused Michael's son to go into a massive amount of debt at the age of 22.

Mr. Speaker, we passed the Affordable Care Act last Congress because our health care system *needs* to be reformed. We spend \$2 *trillion* a year on health care costs – far more than any other country – and yet we are not healthier as a nation!

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they are for reducing spending. Well, Mr. Speaker, repealing the Affordable Care Act will only increase the amount we spend every year on health care.

It will also leave millions without insurance – which ends up costing all of us in the end.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.