

Statement of Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN)
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
Rules Committee Consideration of H.R. 6079, Repeal of ObamaCare Act
July 9, 2012

Good evening Chairman Dreier, Ranking Member Slaughter, and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 6079, legislation that will clear the way for job growth and real health care reform by repealing the 2010 health care law.

Over the last two years, much has been said about the president's health care law. Proponents of the law have gone out of their way to change the subject and discuss anything but their failed experiment in government-run health care. In the days following the Supreme Court's ruling on ObamaCare, White House Chief of Staff Jacob Lew said it was time to "move on" and suggested the American public doesn't want to have this debate again.

This kind of political posturing ignores countless conversations taking place right now as families and small business owners grapple with the costs and uncertainty associated with the law. As long as a flawed health care law remains on the books, these families and job creators can't move on; they can't plan for the future, they can't find a job in a struggling economy, and they can't find relief from skyrocketing health care costs.

This important debate will end when we finally complete the job we were sent here to do: repealing ObamaCare so people can get back to work and we can begin advancing real reforms that lower health care costs. This is an effort we began in January 2011 and one that we on the House Education and the Workforce Committee take seriously.

Since the beginning of the 112th Congress, we've held multiple hearings to examine the fatal flaws and devastating consequences of the health care law. Economists have testified about the ways the law undermines growth and job creation. Health care experts have described how the law inflates the cost of care. And most importantly, job creators have shared their fears about the law's crushing mandates and tax hikes.

Then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi famously said we had to pass the bill to know what's in it, and learn what's in it is exactly what we've tried to do. Unfortunately, what we've discovered is a disturbing record of broken promises.

Instead of lowering costs – as promised – health care costs continue to go up. The Kaiser Family Foundation reports the average costs of a family plan increased by 9 percent in 2011, one year after ObamaCare became the law of the land. Employers contribute on average roughly \$11,000 toward the insurance plan of an employee and their family, and those costs are expected to rise by more than 8 percent this year alone.

Instead of helping to create jobs – as promised – the law is destroying jobs. The director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office believes employers will create 800,000 fewer jobs between now and 2021 as a result of the law's punitive policies. Some fear job losses could be even greater as small businesses struggle with ObamaCare's costly requirements.

Instead of keeping the insurance they like – as promised – millions of Americans may soon lose the health care they currently enjoy. According to a survey by the McKinsey Quarterly, roughly 30 percent of employers will “definitely” or “probably” stop offering insurance. The CBO projects – under the worst case scenario – as many as 20 million Americans could lose their employer-provided insurance as a result of the president's health care law.

Faced with the facts we've learned over the last two years, supporters of ObamaCare have doubled down in defense of a broken law. They continue to perpetuate the myth that reform is only possible through more government, more spending, and more taxes. Meanwhile, the cost of care is increasing rapidly, and our struggling economy has entered its 41st consecutive month of unemployment greater than 8 percent.

My colleagues and I are heeding the call of the American people who demand we repeal ObamaCare once and for all. Only then can we stop debating a broken law and begin to advance commonsense reforms that will empower individuals to access the care they need from the doctor they want, at a more affordable price.