

# Jo Bonner



## THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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### OBAMACARE LAW TURNS TWO

Today, President Obama's health care law turns two, but don't look for cake and ice cream from the White House. The president and his administration know full well their new health care law is roundly unpopular with the American people.

Two years ago, then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said "we have to pass the [health care] bill so you can find out what's in it." With a price tag that's already nearly double what the president originally promised, not to mention more Americans potentially losing access to their preferred care under the new law, many are definitely not in a celebratory mood today.

A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found that Americans oppose Obamacare by a 52 to 41 percent margin. Even more, 72 percent, are unhappy with the health care law's individual mandate that everyone buy insurance or face a penalty, according to a Gallup poll.

The president's health care law doesn't fully take effect for another two years, but efforts to stop it are building momentum. Since January 12, 2011, the House has already voted more than two dozen times to either repeal, defund or weaken Obamacare.

The latest such vote occurred yesterday when I joined 222 of my House colleagues to repeal the health care law's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). This 15-member board of unelected bureaucrats has been given authority under the health care law to find new ways to cut Medicare spending. Medicare has already taken a \$575 billion cut to pay for Obamacare, and the board's decisions could limit seniors' access to care and services even further.

On the legal front, Alabama and a majority of states continue to challenge Obamacare in court. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case relating to the health care law's individual mandate beginning next week.

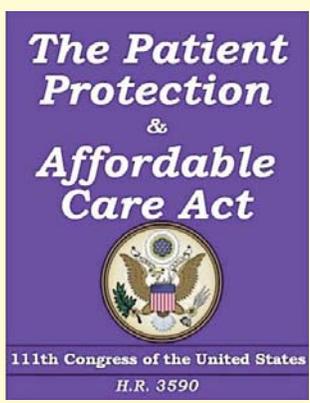
While most Americans disapprove of the

heavy-handed reach of Obamacare into their personal care choices, we can agree that health care costs are too high. We can also agree that simply opposing the president's health care plan is not enough. I have joined in supporting a balanced, market-based approach to health care reform that focuses on lowering costs and increasing access.

Yesterday, the House passed legislation that targets one of the biggest causes of skyrocketing medical care costs—malpractice lawsuit abuse. According to the Harvard School of Public Health, 40 percent of malpractice suits are "without merit." In order to avoid costly lawsuits, doctors often engage in defensive medicine; ordering tests and prescribing medicines that are not medically necessary. They are also forced to pay higher premiums for malpractice insurance. Medical malpractice reform is a long-needed common sense step in controlling the price of health care.

In addition to medical liability reform, I also support offering Americans the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, expanding access to health savings accounts, and offering the right to coverage regardless of pre-existing conditions.

America can do more to improve the cost and availability of health care and health insurance, but Obamacare's big government, less choice approach is not the answer. The House has shown leadership in not only standing up to Obamacare's costly mandates but in demonstrating that solutions can be adopted to preserve Americans' access to the care and doctors they prefer.



### NAVY BUYS TWO MORE AUSTAL LCS

AUSTAL USA continues to manufacture cutting-edge aluminum ships for the Navy. This week the Mobile-based ship maker announced the Navy has exercised its option to purchase two additional littoral combat ships.

The *Gabrielle Giffords* and the *Omaha* will follow AUSTAL's previous LCS vessels, the *Independence* and *Coronado* from the AUSTAL shipyard into service in defense of America. The *Independence* is currently undergoing sea trials while the *Coronado* is nearing completion.

The Navy's current \$3.5 billion contract with AUSTAL allows for the purchase of up to ten LCS. The Navy has a separate contract with AUSTAL to build up to nine Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSVs) in Mobile.

The two Navy contracts will provide almost \$900 million in yearly revenue for the company which is on track to hire over 4,000 employees by 2014.



*It was a privilege to participate in a ceremony honoring the Causey Middle School Band and World War II Veterans. The band will soon travel to Honolulu, Hawaii to perform at Pearl Harbor and compete in the Hawaii Invitational International Music Festival. Pictured with me above is band member Christian Driver.*



# PRESIDENT OBAMA TRIES TO HAVE IT BOTH WAYS ON KEYSTONE PIPELINE

As the national average for a gallon of gasoline approaches \$4, the president is beginning to feel the heat from his lack of a common-sense domestic energy policy.

This week the president has been back peddling as fast as he can to give the appearance that he supports construction of the popular Keystone Pipeline to supplement America's energy supply. He just spent two days out west burning up fuel in Air Force One to pat himself on the back for finally approving a permit to construct only a portion of the pipeline.

If you've been following this story you know that President Obama has not only vehemently opposed the Keystone Pipeline, but he personally lobbied Senators to kill it during a debate over a new transportation bill earlier this month. The project would deliver Canadian oil to Gulf Coast refineries and provide on the order of 20,000 new jobs in the American heartland.

This week the president claimed to be expediting the permit approval for the lower portion of the pipeline, yet the company involved in the actual construction said the project time schedule has not changed. CNN even noted the president's statement was "...more theater than substance."

The House has passed multiple bills supporting the full construction of the Keystone Pipeline, including the approximate 1,800

miles that President Obama still refuses to permit. The House has also called upon the president to reverse his policy of opposing new domestic off-shore oil drilling and his

slow walking of new permits for oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico. Under President Obama, oil production on federally-controlled lands has declined 11 percent from 2010 to 2011.

North American oil and gas output has the potential to expand significantly over the next decade. According to a recent report by Citi Group, the U.S. looks to become the largest producer and seems certain to overtake Russia and Saudi Arabia before the decade is out. However, we could forgo this real stimulus if President Obama continues to let politics intervene in his decision making process.



*At left: It was a special honor to recently present a Purple Heart and Bronze Star to the family of Army Pvt. First Class William Youngblood. Youngblood, a World War II veteran who was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge, passed away in 1999. His family requested a replacement Purple Heart medal through my office. In addition to receiving a new Purple Heart, Pvt. Youngblood's son, Bill, (shown left) was presented a replacement Bronze Star on behalf of his late father.*



*Above: I was pleased to welcome students and teachers from Theodore High School to Capitol Hill this week. The young scholars were in Washington to meet with their elected representatives and experience their government in action.*

## From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

On behalf of the Cub Scouts on Dauphin Island, Alabama, we would like to thank you for the United States Flag that you recently gave to our Pack #5. The boys were so excited to get it, and now we have a U.S. Flag of our own that has flown over the U.S. Capitol! The profound impact of this gesture will affect many boys for years to come. We are reviewing the booklet that you sent with it a page at a time in each Pack Meeting for the next several months, and it will help our boys understand the flag more each month. We appreciate all that you do, especially the work that you have done to help us during the time of the oil spill. All of our families were affected in one way or another, and your continued leadership will help us a lot.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

The Cub Scouts of Pack #5  
Dauphin Island, Alabama

