

As I'm sure you know, on Thursday the Supreme Court ruled the Affordable Care Act (ACA) constitutional.

I am so very pleased that the Supreme Court upheld the life-saving provisions of the ACA. I was proud to bring this bill to the floor of the House of Representatives as Chairwoman of the Rules Committee in 2009, and I continue to be proud of the ways in which the law has improved health care access for millions of Americans.

We worked long and hard to protect Medicare's guarantee of quality health care for our seniors and to make health care more affordable for American families. The ACA also ensures that being a woman is no longer a pre-existing condition and a justification for higher premiums, and requires health insurance companies to spend 85 percent of your premiums on health care, not on administrative costs or salaries.

Because of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, Americans are already seeing lower costs and better coverage. 54 million Americans in private plans have received one or more free preventive services. In addition, in 2011, 32.5 million seniors received one or more free preventive services. So far in 2012, 14 million seniors have already received these services.

105 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on their coverage. Up to 17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers. Further, 6.6 million young adults up to age 26 have taken advantage of the law to obtain health insurance through their parents' plan, of whom 3.1 million would be uninsured without this coverage.

5.1 million seniors in the 'donut hole' have saved \$3.2 billion on their prescription drugs, an average of \$635 per senior. In 2011, 2.3 million seniors had a free Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare. So far in 2012, 1.1 million seniors have already had this free visit. And in 2011, 360,000 small employers used the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit to help them afford health insurance for 2 million workers.

This groundbreaking legislation was never about politics – it was about saving lives and safeguarding the health and wellbeing of American families. I know that much work remains to

be done but I am gratified to know that we are a step closer to ensuring that no American will live in fear of losing their home and everything they own because they or a member of their family is stricken by illness. I am so proud and pleased that the law that will benefit millions of Americans still stands today.