small firms that don't meet the Democrats' standards, up to 61 percent of small businesses, will pay that tax.

The bottom line: more taxes and more costs that will hurt the very workers they are supposed to help.

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, the health care bill that we are now considering contains a very important item, and that is mental health parity, requiring all health insurance plans to treat mental illness and addiction on the same grounds as other physical illnesses. If we are to do this and also to include prevention, it's important that we have the appropriate education and medical education for all doctors so that they may be able to properly screen and treat all patients. Irrespective of their specialties in some other areas, doctors ought to be able to identify and to treat, at least in the primary care setting, mental health challenges before referring them to specialists. This has been an issue within the Institute of Medicine report, and I encourage my colleagues to support this in a section for medical education and training within the base of the bill.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the government-run health care plan, or the Waxman bill, is being forced on Americans without a full debate. In fact, during the markup in Energy and Commerce, where I serve, we got the replacement bill, about 1,000 pages, just about an hour before the markup. The markup was discontinued after 1 day. Who knows what is in the bill today? But there are some basic principles that all Americans recognize.

As Thomas Jefferson has said with regard to the government and its insidious encroachment on everyday freedoms; If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them, we will be wise. This is the pretense that Democrats are using to push their healthcare bill.

Mr. Jefferson also said, Great innovation should not be forced on slender majorities.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that a lot is at stake here, not the least of which is our personal freedom.

AMERICA IS FAST BECOMING A EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

(Mr. BUYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the President and the Democratic leadership here in the House and in the Senate are on the fast track to transitioning our country's Republic into a European social democracy. There were many reasons that the ancestors of the people of America fled from where they were to come to America. It was because of the oppressions of the freedoms by the governments under which they had resided.

We have made our share of mistakes and have had successes throughout history, but when America embraces freedom and liberty, we have the ability to inspire and to lead the world through many industries, and we have done so. In health care, we attract the greatest minds of the world to come to America's marketplace. We attract at-risk capital to press the bounds of science that improve the quality of life of our people and of millions around the world.

So, when we talk about health care reform, we want to preserve that which is right, and we want to work on that which is wrong. When my Democrat colleagues of the leadership talk about health care reform, it's about a government-run, socialized health system. Let's reject that and let's work together.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FATTAH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, there were those who doubted that we would pass children's health care or the budget or the stimulus. Well, I rise today to say that we are going to pass comprehensive health insurance reform because it's so vitally important for our Nation's economy.

As we see the stock market rising and as we see home sales regaining, we see the Richmond Fed report of a very positive manufacturing uptick in the economy, we know with certainty that health care is important. Not only do we need to have a robust private-sector health insurance option for the public, but we need to have an option for patients if they're turned away, so we need a public option.

The previous majority had 8 years to do something on health care and did nothing. We see a lot of energy today in their speeches, but when they were in charge and when they had the White House, they had no concern for the tens of millions of uninsured Americans and for those kicked off of private health insurance because of preexisting conditions.

We're not going to talk about it. We're going to vote about it really soon on this House floor.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, as the American people struggle to make ends meet, too many also live with the challenge of affording basic health care for themselves and for their families.

When I was home this past weekend, I heard from my constituents on a number of issues, but health care was prime on their minds. They were concerned about the plan on the table. They have great concern with regard to the provisions in there and with regard to the rationing of care. They're very concerned about the possible loss of the doctor-patient relationship. Small businesses are concerned about the tax provisions in the bill that may cost them not only the employees they have but their businesses on the whole.

At a time when we need to be helping small business, we're adding another burden onto them. Our side, that of the Republicans, has a plan to address each of these concerns in a way that solves problems rather than creates a lot of government bureaucracy, which actually takes over 18 percent of our economy. My constituents believe that the administration's plan on the table is the wrong plan at the wrong time and that it will have the wrong outcome.

THE HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, this 1,017-page bill passed in Labor. It passed in Ways and Means. It's only waiting on one committee at this point. What is clear is that it uses our tax money to kill innocent, little babies through abortion. It's clear that it uses our tax money to allow people to kill themselves. What's unclear is anything in between.

Part of the reason this chart is being censored, I've concluded, is that it actually oversimplifies this bill. As for this position here, that of the health administrator, I asked in our markup, What defines a full-time employee? Is it 40 hours, 35 or 30 hours? Well, that will be up to the health care administrator. What about seasonal employees? Are they counted? Well, that will be up to the health care administrator. What about if you're above the small business amount and then you drop below it because you've laid off people? Well, that will be up to the health care administrator.

This was all night long. We were in session all night long, marking up this bill. The committee kept saying, Well, we don't want the businesses to game this bill, so we're not going to put it in the bill that defines ''full time.'' They

had small, smaller, smallest. We're not going to define it because we're going to let the health care administrator do it. This 1,017 pages is just a start.

LISTEN TO THE HEALTH CARE EXPERTS

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my constituents aren't the only ones concerned about the government takeover of health care.

Yesterday, health care leaders of Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, gathered at Ben Taub Hospital. They represent indigent public hospitals, nonprofits, private systems, and some of our cutting-edge research institutions. These nationally renowned leaders had three messages for lawmakers in Congress:

One, they have no idea what is in this massive health care bill nor how it affects the patients they treat. They've had virtually no input in health care reform, and it's too important to rush through the House in the next few days.

Dr. Larry Kaiser, a surgeon and the president of the University of Texas Health Science Center, said, ''I liken it to taking out a tumor. There's a time when there's an urge to get it done quickly, but that's when mistakes can be made. That's the time to take it slowly and carefully.''

Why aren't we listening to these health care experts? Now is not the time to rush this bill through.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, troubled about the Democrats' proposed government takeover of our health care system. The Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, has confirmed that this legislation will not reduce costs but will, rather, drive costs even higher for American families. They confirmed this weekend that a mandate on business would tend to reduce the hiring of workers at or near the minimum wage. They also pointed out that employers would be expected to pass the costs of fees on to workers in the form of lower wages.

This government takeover will burden our economy, and it will stifle economic growth. Instead of a takeover, Congress should act on free market and Tax Code health care reforms to make our system better. The President and his majority in Congress failed to produce jobs with the so-called ''stimulus.'' In fact, things have only gotten worse. Why should we trust them with the government takeover of health care?

BIPARTISANSHIP IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, so many Members have come up to talk about this plan, the plan that, in fact, cannot get even all of the Democrats to vote for it, and it doesn't have so much as one Republican voting for it. Hopefully, the American people understand Republicans believe there is a problem. We know, in fact, there are uninsured and underinsured. There are Americans who are concerned about losing their insurance, and of course, we all know that the Federal program, such as Medicare, is fraught with waste, fraud and abuse.

What we don't hear is that we can attack the problems on a bipartisan basis. Lower the cost of health care by eliminating defensive medicine, by lowering the threat against every doctor, if he or she doesn't simply do every possible test, even if it's simply running up the tab.

We can, in fact, work on a bipartisan basis on health care. The first thing we have to do is agree to do it piece by piece and to attack those things which either cause people to be uninsured or, in fact, cause people not to be able to afford their insurance.

I urge you to think about that, Mr. Speaker.

MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of all Americans have health insurance, the majority of whom like their plans. The Democrat bill, as drawn out, does a couple of things.

First of all, it doesn't keep the President's promise. The President promises that, if you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it, but as stated earlier on pages 16 and 17 of the bill, you're not going to be able to do that.

The other thing is the plan was to lower the cost curb, but the CBO testified that the costs for both plans go up. The cost for the private insurance plan goes up. The cost for the public option goes up. A public option will undercut private insurance, driving people into a public plan.

Now, in countries that have one public insurance plan, the only way they control costs is by rationing care. If you don't trust me, just ask the Canadians, the Brits, the folks in New Zealand, and in Australia where you have a bureaucrat deciding whether you get the care you need or not. This is not the type of plan we want. We want to maintain the doctor-patient relationship.

HEALTH CARE REFORM THAT EMPOWERS THE AMERICAN CITIZEN

(Mr. PLATTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, recently, I was asked during a radio interview if I thought legislation for health care reform would pass the House sometime this year. My answer was, ''I hope so.'' All of us want more affordable, better, more accessible health care for our citizens. The question is: How do we achieve this very important goal?

Unfortunately, the plan embodied by this diagram is not the way to do that. This plan will cost millions of jobs. It will cut almost a half trillion dollars out of Medicare, hurting seniors. It will raise taxes on small businesses, making it harder to provide health insurance. As the CBO has told us, when fully implemented, it will raise the cost of health care by over $200 billion. That's more than $2 trillion in 10 years.

Unfortunately, the House leadership who are promoting this plan and those who are supporting it have forgotten the physician's principle of ''first do no harm.'' This plan will do great harm to health care for each and every American citizen. We must defeat this plan, and we must enact legislation that will truly be about empowering the American citizen, and that will be about what is best for their health care.

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PRICELESS

(Mr. NUNES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to draw your attention to the board here. Mr. Speaker, there are 435 Members of the House of Representatives. There are 256 Democrats in the House of Representatives. It takes 218 votes to pass the government takeover of health care. Mr. Speaker, it's priceless that the Democrats can't come up with 218 votes to pass the government takeover of health care.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, you know, with all of the talk of health care reform over the last several weeks, we haven't heard anything from the majority with regard to medical malpractice reform. This is kind of interesting because if any of you actually walk into a doctor's office across the country and ask them what's the one thing that could really help with health care in this country with costs and care and coverage, they would say medical malpractice reform.

Today across this country, doctors do not look at patients as patients. They look at them as future lawsuits. If we