

Do Americans want 3 million new jobs in this country for the cost of a postage stamp a day? You bet.

We are going to pass this bill. Americans want it.

COMPETITION IS NEEDED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to learn more about the single-payer, government takeover of the health care system proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I would like to point out why this isn't a good idea.

First, we can't afford it. Cost estimates are now up to \$3.5 trillion of money we don't have. Medicare, even with heavy subsidies from private insurance, is on the course of bankruptcy. How will we afford a Medicare-for-all program?

Let me be clear, the government cannot be both competitor and make up the rules of the game. It would be like Microsoft being put in control of the Internet. How would other companies compete with Microsoft?

A single-payer system option will erode the private insurance market that is propping up the public health plan we have today. It is becoming very clear that the public option group has the ultimate goal of destroying competition and choice and substituting it with a government takeover of our health care system.

So what is the end game here? The end game is that once the Federal Government gains full control of our health care system and steps between you and your doctor, we will have exploding budgets which will lead to rationing.

□ 1030

DEMOCRATIC HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. The Democratic Party has a new and better idea about health care. The Democratic Party, under the leadership of Barack Obama, is going to give Americans and American businesses what they've been asking for—begging for—relief from the problems in our health care system.

For the first time, people who are considered uninsurable will not have to worry about how they're going to get the money to go to the doctor to take care of their child. They will be insured. Everybody in this country will be insured. There will be the insurance companies, but there will also be a public option so people who can't find health insurance who do not have jobs will be able to be insured.

I find it interesting that the opposing party talks about no competition and no choice. I have seen too many con-

stituents who have no choice; they can't go to the doctor, they can't get surgery because they don't have health insurance. And I have also seen the so-called "competition" refuse to insure some of my constituents because of preexisting health conditions. So what we have now is the ability to keep your insurance. If Americans want to keep their insurance, they should, but if they don't, or they can't, then they finally have a public option.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this health insurance plan.

REJECT THE CAP-AND-TRADE TAX

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, we just heard a speech a few moments ago about how jobs will be created through this national energy tax. Apparently those jobs will not be created in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in any significant way. In fact, I would like to share with my friends and the American people a letter from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, three of the five commissioners who wrote me and told me about the impacts of this legislation. They said, "Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producer in the Nation, distributing over 75 million tons of coal each year. Roughly 7 percent of the Nation's supply is in Pennsylvania and 58 percent of all electricity used here comes from coal. However, if the Waxman-Markey bill were to pass, Pennsylvania is looking at a bleak scenario by 2020; a net loss of as many as 66,000 jobs, a sizeable hike in electric bills of residential customers, an increase in national gas prices, and significant downward pressure on the State gross product. The cost estimates are staggering." Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

I urge my colleagues to reject this national energy tax. The industrial and agricultural heartland States of America will pay and will pay big. It's time that we reject this tax.

PERMISSION TO EXTEND TIME FOR DEBATE AND MODIFY AMENDMENT DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2647

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 2647, pursuant to House Resolution 572, debate on amendment Nos. 3 and 9 each be extended to 20 minutes, and that amendment No. 2 be modified in the form that is now placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COHEN). The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X (page 374, after line 2), insert the following new section:

SEC. 1055. SENSE OF CONGRESS HONORING THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MCHUGH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 1993, Representative John M. McHugh was elected to represent New York's 23rd Congressional district, which is located in northern New York and consists of Clinton, Hamilton, Lewis, Oswego, Madison, and Saint Lawrence counties and parts of Essex, Franklin, Fulton, and Oneida counties.

(2) Representative McHugh also represents Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division.

(3) Prior to his service in Congress, Representative McHugh served four terms in the New York State Senate, representing the 48th district from 1984 to 1992.

(4) Representative McHugh began his public service career in 1971 in his hometown of Watertown, New York, where he served for five years as a Confidential Assistant to the City Manager.

(5) Subsequently, Representative McHugh served for nine years as Chief of Research and Liaison with local governments for New York State Senator H. Douglas Barclay.

(6) Representative McHugh is known by his colleagues as a leader on national defense and security issues and a tireless advocate for America's military personnel and their families.

(7) During his tenure, he has led the effort to increase Army and Marine Corps end-strength levels, increase military personnel pay, reduce the unfair tax on veterans' disability and military retired pay (concurrent receipt) and safeguard military retiree benefits for our troops.

(8) Since the 103rd Congress, Representative McHugh has served on the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives and subsequently was appointed Chairman of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Panel before being appointed Chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee.

(9) Representative McHugh began serving on the United States Military Academy Board of Visitors in 1995, and he was appointed to the Board of Visitors by the Speaker of the House in 2007.

(10) In the 111th Congress, Representative McHugh was appointed Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives by the Republican membership of the House of Representatives.

(11) On June 2, 2009, the President announced his intention to nominate Representative McHugh to serve as the Secretary of the Army.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Honorable John M. McHugh, Representative from New York, has served the House of Representatives and the American people selflessly and with distinction and that he deserves the sincere and humble gratitude of Congress and the Nation.

Mr. SKELTON (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 572 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2647.