

to a now over \$11 trillion debt, it is not hard to imagine the daily frustrations I see every weekend at home on the faces of individuals and families struggling in this economic downturn.

It is time for Congress to start operating just as the families in my district do and adopt statutory PAYGO as the law of the land.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this landmark legislation.

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT RAISING TAXES AND COSTING JOBS

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. We can have health care reform without raising taxes and costing jobs. The health care version currently being debated in Congress is recognized and called by many as a prescription for disaster—disaster as it relates to ensuring quality and affordable health care and disaster as to the impact it would have on our economy.

Governors across the country, Republicans and Democrats, are fearful it would only add additional costs to an already unsustainable system. The Mayo Clinic says this bill misses the opportunity to help create higher quality, more affordable health care for patients. In fact, they say it will do the opposite.

CBO last week stated that it would worsen our economic outlook by increasing deficits and driving our Nation more deeply into debt.

There are many reasons to be skeptical of this plan: the job loss, the additional debt, the government intrusion between you and your doctor and your health care decisions.

Some continue to say, It's better than nothing. When you are sick or your son or daughter is sick, you don't want the doctor just to do something. You want them to do the right thing.

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HEALTH CARE SCARE TACTICS WILL NOT WORK

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago Frank Luntz wrote the speeches for Newt Gingrich to come out here and scare the American people about the Clinton health reform. They succeeded 15 years ago. What have the people gotten since then? Nothing. The number of people have gone up and up and up and up who do not have health insurance. So here they are all arrayed out here again today one at a time. Folks, they are here to scare you again. Mr. Speaker, the people are smarter this time.

In the election of 2008, they elected a President who said he would bring

health care reform to this country, and they gave the Democrats an overwhelming majority because they are tired of the fear machine. Now I know you all have your talking points. Frank Luntz pulled them out of the drawer, shined them up for 2008 and said, Hey, boys, here's the speech that worked in 1994. Use it again. It won't work, Mr. Speaker. The people want health care reform, and we're going to give it to them.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the lady on television said, "Where's the beef?" The American people are now saying, "Where's the jobs?" One of the things that the President promised was jobs for this country. The Speaker said, It's about jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs, but the national unemployment is 9.5 percent, and in the Midwest it's in double digits. Are those the jobs?

Yes, the Democrats have given us some jobs. They've given us this cap-and-tax bill which is going to stick a tax collector in everybody's pocket, destroy small businesses, and destroy jobs in the country. They've given us 33 czars at \$170,000 a year to reward their cronies who helped them get elected up here by creating new jobs in Washington for them.

Last night the Energy and Commerce Committee voted to put a bureaucrat between a doctor and his patient to tell him how he's going to treat that sick person. That's a new job they want to create. They've got this idea that if they throw enough money to ACORN, they're going to create jobs for ACORN—if they can keep the indictments away from them. These are not jobs.

THE IMPROVING JOB MARKET

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friends wanting to talk about jobs. They have the arguments that they want to pursue, but they don't want to let the facts get in the way of their argument. Let's start with the report we received today from the Federal Reserve.

We know that jobs fell off a cliff last fall and earlier this year as part of the Bush administration's efforts for jobs. Private nonfarm employment fell by 670,000 jobs on average per the month from January to April, but declines slowed to 312,000 in May and 415,000 in June. The May and June declines in construction jobs were the smallest since last fall.

Job declines and temporary employment applications slowed noticeably, and employment in nonbusiness services turned up in May and increased further in June. That's why we have

the stock market going up. That's why consumer confidence is going up is because this is working, even if my friends' arguments are not working.

JOBLESSNESS IS NOT JUST A TALKING POINT

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this ain't a talking point. Last night I talked to one of my constituents. This man is an unemployed truck driver. His statement to me was a very clear one: Where are the jobs? Where are the jobs?

He said, You guys back there in Washington have put together a so-called stimulus bill that cost me—he's still a taxpayer—\$1 trillion, and now you plan to take over the entire health care system in this country? He said, It would be devastating. I am looking for a job as a truck driver again, and with what you've done on cap-and-trade, it's going to undermine my ability to do that.

The message is loud and clear. It's not coming from anyone putting together talking points, Mr. Speaker. It's coming from the American people to Democrats and Republicans alike in this Congress. Where are the jobs?

GOVERNMENT MUST RUN USING PAYGO PRINCIPLES

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

Mr. MINNICK. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will consider a law requiring us to do what every other American taxpayer must do with its family finances, something very simple and very basic, pay for what we spend.

Ten years ago, thinking somehow it didn't need outside fiscal discipline, Congress abandoned this commonsense approach, wasted our budget surpluses, and went on a spending frenzy, doubling our national debt. Now we face the largest budget deficit in our Nation's history.

Our government cannot continue to borrow and spend, create ever-higher levels of debt, and pass along the costs of paying for it to our children and grandchildren. We are now relying on trillions of dollars of money borrowed from China and Middle Eastern oil states to pay our bills. This can't continue.

It's time we grow up, act like responsible adults and return to fiscal sanity. With this measure, any new spending we pass must be deficit-neutral. This is the long overdue essential first step towards a return to fiscal responsibility that will assure our creditors and demonstrate to the American public that we deserve to govern.

I salute my Blue Dog colleagues for their persistence on bringing this critical issue to a vote. I urge my colleagues to support this simple, commonsense bill.