

**WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO
STOP THE UNEMPLOYMENT**

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, this morning I opened up my hometown paper, The Bakersfield Californian. On the front page of the local section there is an article, Kern County's unemployment rate for the month of June increased to 14.7 percent. If that's a talking point, it's coming directly from the paper. One year ago the unemployment rate was 9 percent.

The American people know that if Americans are not working, America is not working. My constituents ask me, Is this Obama economy going to improve? They continue to ask me, If you take more from what people earn, for the energy tax every time you turn on a light, when you go to health care, taxing, are you taking away the choice?

But I tell them there is a chance for a better way. There is a better way to work together to focus on small business. Small business creates 70 percent of every job in America. We can do better by working together and stopping the unemployment.

**CONGRATULATING THE FRIENDSHIP
MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH IN ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Roswell, New Mexico. This year the church will be celebrating 47 years of service to the Roswell community. The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church has been dedicated to the faith and well-being of the people of Roswell for nearly a half a century.

I would like to especially honor the current serving pastor, Rev. Michael K. Shelton, and the church's former pastor, the Rev. O.C. King, and his wife for 28 years of faithful leadership to the church and the Roswell community.

Churches like Friendship Baptist achieve such great distinction because of the hard work, dedication, and compassion of their congregation. The leaders of the church and their staff are also to be commended for their guidance.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church has been and will remain a place for fellowship and a source of hope for the people of southern New Mexico. I am honored to have churches like Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in my district, and I commend them on their years of service.

**FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS
SHOULD ENROLL IN THE PUBLIC
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, would a government takeover of health care create jobs? The answer is clearly no. We should be focused on job one right now, which is find the jobs. But, Mr. Speaker, if the Energy and Commerce Committee had continued to work today, I would have introduced an amendment to require all Federal elected officials, including the President and Vice President, to set aside our health care benefits and enroll in their new idea of a government-run health care system.

If the majority is really so confident that their plan will provide the very best health care to the people we represent, we ought to demonstrate that confidence by enrolling ourselves. I, for one, don't believe the government-run health care plan will be the best for the people we represent, but a government competitor will soon be the only one left.

A government competitor, Mr. Speaker, would be like an elephant in a room full of mice. The fast mice can get out of the room as quick as they can. The slow mice get crushed, and only the elephant is left. It is time we put our health care where we want the American health care to be, Mr. Speaker, but it's also time we find the jobs.

**THE BENEFITS OF HEALTH CARE
REFORM FOR ALL AMERICANS**

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we really are on the verge of finalizing groundbreaking health care reform legislation that will benefit healthier generations to come and the 250 million of us who have health care but who are tired of skyrocketing premiums and deductibles.

Did your salary go up 114 percent this last decade? It sure didn't, but that's what happened with premiums and deductibles. This is about real reform, not for insurance companies and their bean counters, but for the American people.

I want to emphasize today the importance of including a robust public plan option, relying on the Medicare provider network in the final reform bill. Providing Americans with a real choice in doctors and insurance plans puts Americans back in charge of their health care, not insurance companies, but real people and patients.

I would say that for those who believe in the free market, why are you afraid of a public plan? Why are you afraid of something that competes?

Mr. Speaker, I think it's time for us to do health care reform to lower costs, to make it affordable, and to benefit those of us who have health care to lower our deductibles and our premiums.

WHERE ARE THE PROMISED JOBS?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate is in double digits around this country. Some States have the highest unemployment rate in history. The economy is bleeding jobs because the trillion-dollar stimulus bill was a jobs disaster bill.

Jobs, jobs, jobs, that's all we heard from the taxacrats as they jammed that bill through Congress. They didn't give anybody a chance to read it. They sure didn't want Members of Congress to read it. The American people didn't get to read it, and they have to suffer the consequences.

But the stimulus bill did help one city, however. Washington, D.C., has the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Now, how can that be? Well, the stimulus bill stimulated government programs funded at taxpayer expense. These aren't real jobs. Government doesn't create anything. All they do is suck money out of a private economy that could create real jobs.

The bureaucrats created more jobs for red tape regulating bureaucrats and forced citizens to subsidize it. All the trillion-dollar stimulus bill did was spend taxpayer money to create more government regulations, more government control, and more government bureaucrats. That's too bad.

And that's just the way it is.

**THE COST OF HEALTH CARE
INACTION IS TOO GREAT**

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to dispel the myth that health care reform will suddenly move the burden of paying for the uninsured onto the rest of us. All Americans are already paying the high costs of a broken health care system with 47 million Americans uninsured.

The cost of caring for the uninsured gets passed on to all of us. The average American family is currently paying more than \$1,000 every year to support the uninsured. This \$1,000 fee is buried deep in every premium and pays for the broken health care system.

Health care costs are soaring out of control. Premiums have doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than wages. These staggering prices are too high for American families. Members of Congress must come together to address the problem for the health of middle class Americans and the health of their wallets. The cost of inaction is just too great to sit back and do nothing.

GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE WILL COST MORE JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have painted a target on the backs of America's small businesses. As unemployment rises, 2.6 million jobs have been lost since January. Democrats continue to propose policies that will kill jobs.

First there was cap-and-tax, which will skyrocket electric bills, gas prices and food prices, and make American businesses less competitive. Now they have a government-run health care full of tax hikes and mandates on small businesses, which the NFIB estimates will cost 1.6 million more jobs lost.

Small businesses create the majority of jobs in this country. They are doing the best they can in this tough economy, but all they hear from Democrats is pay higher taxes. Democrats should stop feeding Big Government and start providing relief to small businesses.

Where are the jobs? We need health care reforms that help more Americans regardless of their preexisting conditions, help small businesses provide insurance for their employees, and keep in place an innovative side of our health care system.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. You've heard the commercial: Don't support government health care.

So the question that you need to ask yourself then is, Do I feel lucky? Do I feel lucky that I won't be one of the 14,000 people a day who lose their jobs and can't afford health insurance, that I won't have such a high deductible that I avoid preventive care and end up with end-stage cancer because I didn't go to the doctor. Well, am I lucky?

Do I feel lucky that Junior won't break a bone and I end up in the emergency room with a \$5,000 bill? Do I feel lucky that I won't go bankrupt from my health care problems? Do I feel lucky that I won't have some pre-existing condition that prevents me from getting a new job? Do I feel lucky that my health care premium won't grow three times faster than my salary?

The American economy is in the intensive care unit. The disease is the high cost of health care, and the medicine is health care reform.

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week my home State of Minnesota saw the unemployment rate rise once again, while seeing its exports drop by almost 20 percent from just 1 year ago.

The number one priority of this Congress and this administration should be job creation. But it's clear that the economic stimulus policies being pursued in Washington are failing. Congress has missed important opportunities to pursue real policies that will put Minnesotans and Americans back to work.

Instead, we've seen reckless spending and reckless borrowing at unprecedented rates, so much so that the fact now is that every man, woman and child in our country owes over \$37,000 as their share of the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, we should be reforming health care without throwing even more new taxes on the backs of families and small businesses, and we should be giving priority to helping small businesses, our number one job creators, to put Minnesotans and Americans back to work.

APOLLO MOON LANDING IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF ST. LOUIS PRIDE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Science and Technology Committee, I rise today to remember the 40th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing and the deep sense of pride it gave our Nation.

I, like all Americans, watched with amazement as Neil Armstrong declared: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." That moment demonstrates the magnitude of American know-how, ingenuity, innovation and our ability to rise to a great challenge.

My home city of St. Louis, Missouri, was instrumental in the success of that Moon mission, serving as home to then-McDonnell Douglas, which manufactured components for the third-stage booster rocket for Saturn V. That third-stage booster rocket launched those brave astronauts into lunar orbit, making the historic journey possible.

Now it's time to lead the world once again in innovation and science technology, especially as we transition to a new clean energy economy. Americans are ready to be called to action for a great challenge again.

HEALTH CARE REFORM A PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, when the economic stimulus plan was passed earlier this year, the

American people were told that we had to act immediately because of our economic crisis. We were also told that that plan would create or save 3 million jobs and that the unemployment rate would not rise above 8 percent, and that we had to act so fast that actually not one Member of this House or the American people had a chance to read the bill.

And what has actually happened since that time?

Well, the economy hasn't gained 3 million jobs. It's actually lost 3 million jobs. Where are the jobs?

Unemployment is almost 10 percent. In my home State of Michigan, it is 15.2 percent today, and \$787 billion has been added to our national debt and we have an annual deficit approaching \$2 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, now we're being told that we need to pass health care reform immediately because we're in a crisis. We're told that it will be deficit neutral because it includes massive new taxes on individuals and small businesses. But CBO says that it will actually increase the deficit, Mr. Speaker, while others say that it will force millions of Americans out of their private health insurance.

We do need to reform our health care system, but doing it in such a panic mode is a recipe for disaster.

EMPLOYER MANDATE HARDSHIP

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, our economy is struggling, and unemployment is near 10 percent. Yet the health care proposal being considered in Congress asks our job creators, the small businesses of America across this country, to pay a new 8 percent tax.

Last week, in the Ways and Means Committee, I proposed to exempt small businesses from this penalty tax if it would result in businesses having to lay off workers, cut wages, or reduce jobs.

America's businesses are hurting, and we're asking them to pay more taxes? Yet, my amendment was rejected. Requiring small businesses to pay a penalty tax is no way to help them stay in business and create jobs. American workers will be harmed. Workers will bear the new cost through lost jobs and smaller wages.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill. Americans need the confidence that their jobs are not in jeopardy, that we are working to protect and strengthen their health care, while supporting the small businesses that create jobs.

And these aren't speaking points. That's just some straight shooting from the sheriff.

STABILIZING OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address