

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.