

Why should we trust them with revising the one-sixth of our economy based on health care, when their own advisers say it will mean millions of more jobs lost?

EMPOWERING PATIENTS

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I actually applaud the goal of our Democratic colleagues in terms of the health bill they are putting out. Access, quality, and controlling costs are things that we should all aspire for. Absolutely.

And I agree with parts of the legislation. Guaranteed access, for example, is just wonderful. But, of course our concern is that CBO comment that it's not going to control cost, not achieve one of these goals, but rather, reset it to increase it. And we know as the cost of health care increases, that will be one more thing that inhibits growth and jobs.

So what can we do? One, we do need fundamental reform, which, as the CBO has pointed out, this bill does provide. We need to put the patient in charge of health care decisions and dollars. We need to empower patients to make value-conscious decisions, empower them with the information they need for reasonable decisions by increasing transparency on the pricing of health care.

Let's empower them by incentivizing wellness programs at lower costs and improved lives. Let's empower them with things such as HSAs, which have been shown to decrease costs by 30 percent and, indeed, give insurance to those previously uninsured. Empowering patients is the only way to lower cost and increase access.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. BACHUS. I just came from a hearing with Chairman Bernanke. There were some questions he could answer, but others he couldn't answer. We asked him, Where are the jobs? He couldn't answer that question. He said unemployment would remain high through 2011. He said he's not sure that the stimulus created any jobs. It might, but he couldn't answer that.

He did answer one important question, though; and he was very certain. He said, if we continue spending like we're spending today, we're on a rendezvous with financial disaster. He said, and he left no doubt, that we had to reduce our spending, that the deficit was going to threaten the prosperity of our Nation, not only our children and our grandchildren, but today, tomorrow. He said, we have to reduce spending. He said, spending is out of control. He said, the baby boomers in the next

year or two would overwhelm the Federal budget. He said, bring down the spending.

LET'S DO IT RIGHT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while our Nation is facing record unemployment, we may well worsen the job situation if the proposed health care bill passes in its current version; 4.7 million more jobs are estimated to be lost and a trillion dollars in more taxes. That's bad medicine.

We still have not addressed the hundreds of billions in health care waste, but are proposing spending hundreds of billions more. We should not be substituting the barriers, burdens and, bureaucracy of insurance companies with the barriers, burdens, and bureaucracy of Uncle Sam's health insurance company.

I want to get people back to work. I want to make sure they're covered by health care. I want our Committee on Energy and Commerce to reconvene to get to work on this bill. It is going to take time. We need to take the time to fix this. Let's do it right. But let's not work towards artificial deadlines, and let's get America back to work with good health care.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I believe in health care reform. I have been fighting for it since I got here in 1995.

I came to the floor this morning to talk about this amendment. It's an amendment that was rejected by the Democrats last night. It says that no Federal employee should be able to dictate how a medical provider practices medicine. And it was rejected by the Democrats. Apparently Democrats in their health care bill want Federal employees, bureaucrats to dictate how your medical provider practices medicine. I think that's shocking. I don't want a Federal bureaucrat between me and my doctor or between you and your doctor.

But I got here and discovered that we are not supposed to ask, Where are the jobs? I don't get it. What's embarrassing about that question? It's a fair question. Where are the jobs?

When the Obama administration was sworn in, unemployment was 7.6 percent. When the stimulus passed, it was 8.1 percent. And today, it's 9.5 percent. And we're not supposed to ask where are the jobs? I think it's a legitimate question. I guess it's an embarrassing question. I'd like to know where the jobs are.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in my office, and I heard a lot of folks asking where the jobs were.

I downloaded an article from the Evansville Courier Press, which happens to be in Indiana. It says: "Stimulus has Hoosiers working."

I'll make a few quotes out of this article: "More than 2,400 people are now at work on Federal stimulus-funded roadway projects in Indiana, according to a state report being released today."

"'Things were slowing down, and the stimulus filled in the gap,' said Tim Mahoney, an economics professor at the University of Southern Indiana. 'It's kept the people employed that would be laid off,'" says that same article.

"What's clear is that the stimulus projects have boosted an industry otherwise floundering in Indiana."

"'In general, it definitely puts our people to work,' said Pete Bjorkman, the chief estimator for Evansville-based J.H. Rudolph" construction company.

"Our crews are going to be working more hours and more days because of this . . .," he said. 'It is creating more crews, more hours for our people that wouldn't have been there before.'

Mr. Speaker, I listened in the office to the stuff being said back and forth. To the folks in the audience and the people that are walking out there, Mr. Speaker, they're tired of this crap that's going on back and forth. We need to work together to put people back to work.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, the present unemployment rate in the United States is 9.5 percent and climbing, and the American people are hurting. Our economic downturn is a challenge that will require prompt bipartisan action.

As Congress moves forward with the national debate on the economy, it is imperative that we detract from illogical partisan bickering and avoid the empty political posturing that got us into this mess in the first place.

The American people have real problems, and they want real solutions that require less talk and more action.

I represent a district that is over 60 percent African American, and I have seen firsthand how this economic slump has disproportionately hurt minorities more than any other group in the United States. Among African Americans, the rate of unemployment and uninsured workers is highest.

While there are a number of options for getting our economy back on track, it is important to remember that our