SCRAP THIS BILL AND LET'S START OVER ON REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Think about this concept of government-managed health care for just a minute. Imagine that the Federal Government told you you can have your house for free. That sounds good, right? Until they tell you that you have to live in government housing. Now what? How many Americans want to leave their homes for government subsidized housing?

Polls show that the more people learn about the government-controlled health plan, the less they support it.

Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance is a laudable goal we all want to achieve, but paying $1.5 trillion to get part of the way, with a government-controlled plan that eliminates choice and stifles the doctor-patient relationship, that's not the answer.

Mr. President, scrap this bill and let's start over on real health care reform.

□ 1015

WE NEED REFORM

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, the keepers of the status quo on health care are simply wrong. It is unacceptable for Americans to have their wage increases swallowed up by health care costs.

Our medical costs are rising three times faster than our wages. It consumes twice as much of our economy as it did just 12 years ago. The status quo is unacceptable.

Now some of my colleagues want to defend the status quo, trying to scare Americans to think that we're going to deliver bad medical care. Let me ask them this: Is the medical care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, so bad? I don't think so.

Our bill, basically—and we are improving this bill as we speak—is going to provide the kind of care that Americans are getting at the Mayo Clinic. Because when our bill passes, it will in fact allow and inspire doctors to do what they do at the Mayo Clinic for half the price that Americans are paying for their medical care in Miami, Florida. Half the price at the Mayo Clinic for what Americans pay in medical care.

We need reform. We're going to pass it.

MAYO CLINIC OPPOSED HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me say this, that the Mayo Clinic opposes this health care bill because it's nonsense, it costs too much, and it's going to put America more in debt.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM MEANS STABILITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Those within and without health insurance share something in common: they both lack stability and security when it comes to coverage, cost, and quality of their health care.

Every day, Americans are forced into tough decisions and circumstances that lead them to lose their health care. As the President mentioned last night, on average, 14,000 Americans a day are losing their health care.

Health insurance reform means stable coverage that can't be taken away. If your spouse is laid off or changes jobs, you won't lose your coverage. If you or your family or coworker get sick, you won't pay more or lose your coverage.

With health insurance reform, no one is able to get between you and your doctor. It will keep government out of health care decisions, allowing you to keep the coverage you have today if you want it.

Stability has been missing from our health care system for decades. As we work to get our economy moving again, now is the time to fix it. The proposed health insurance reform bill builds upon what works and fixes what is broken.

My constituents strongly want, need, and deserve a more stable and secure health care system. And that's what we need to fight to do.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT, NOT TAX, SMALL BUSINESSES

(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. Madam Speaker, small businesses face challenging economic threats. Those who can afford to are struggling to provide health care to their employees.

The last thing small businesses need—and we've had 2.6 million jobs lost since the new President came in office—are more mandates and tax hikes that will destroy jobs. Unfortunately, under their health care tax, Democrats are proposing just that.

They believe small businesses should abide by government mandates and provide health care that meets a bureaucratic code or suffer an 8 percent tax and fines up to $500,000. This is no way to treat the most prolific job-creating engine of our economy.

Republicans have solutions for affordable, accessible, and portable health care without tax hikes on families and small businesses. We reject the rationing of health care and government intrusion and propose flexibility for small businesses to band together for affordable health care.

Republicans have solutions that will empower individuals, not Big Government. We will promote new jobs.

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

NEED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the need for health care reform in this country, reform that must ensure patients can choose their doctor, is portable, and gives stability to our citizens as they grow old, change jobs, and face health problems. It must protect those with preexisting conditions and address prevention.

I've received countless calls from constituents about the need to fix what is broken and protect what works in this health care system.

Last night, on this floor, I heard a colleague on the other side of the aisle say that all Americans have health care today, the emergency room. Well, tell that to my constituents like Carla, who called about her sister Edith, who's been without insurance since last September.

Edith is 49 years old and suffers from severe osteoarthritis. Injured at work, she had to change jobs because she was denied workmen's comp. And then, after she got a job that offered some coverage, she was laid off due to economic conditions.

Now unemployed, Edith is without health insurance, insurance she desperately needs to help cover her doctors visits and her prescriptions. Edith is a victim of a failed system.

Madam Speaker, we need health care reform in this country to ensure that Edith and countless others are not left behind.

WE THINK YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH WHEN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INFORMATION

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I'm very disappointed because the Democrats and the administration don't think the American people are either smart enough or they don't trust them to make their own decisions.

The Democrats and the administration have introduced a reform for financial markets that is going to start telling the American people, Hey, you're not smart enough or we don't trust you to determine what kind of