

small firms that don't meet the Democrats' standards, up to 61 percent of small businesses, will pay that tax.

The bottom line: more taxes and more costs that will hurt the very workers they are supposed to help.

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, the health care bill that we are now considering contains a very important item, and that is mental health parity, requiring all health insurance plans to treat mental illness and addiction on the same grounds as other physical illnesses. If we are to do this and also to include prevention, it's important that we have the appropriate education and medical education for all doctors so that they may be able to properly screen and treat all patients. Irrespective of their specialties in some other areas, doctors ought to be able to identify and to treat, at least in the primary care setting, mental health challenges before referring them to specialists. This has been an issue within the Institute of Medicine report, and I encourage my colleagues to support this in a section for medical education and training within the base of the bill.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the government-run health care plan, or the Waxman bill, is being forced on Americans without a full debate. In fact, during the markup in Energy and Commerce, where I serve, we got the replacement bill, about 1,000 pages, just about an hour before the markup. The markup was discontinued after 1 day. Who knows what is in the bill today? But there are some basic principles that all Americans recognize.

As Thomas Jefferson has said with regard to the government and its insidious encroachment on everyday freedoms; If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them, we will be wise. This is the pretense that Democrats are using to push their healthcare bill.

Mr. Jefferson also said, Great innovation should not be forced on slender majorities.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that a lot is at stake here, not the least of which is our personal freedom.

AMERICA IS FAST BECOMING A EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the President and the Democratic leadership here in the House and in the Senate are on the fast track to transitioning our country's Republic into a European social democracy. There were many reasons that the ancestors of the people of America fled from where they were to come to America. It was because of the oppressions of the freedoms by the governments under which they had resided.

We have made our share of mistakes and have had successes throughout history, but when America embraces freedom and liberty, we have the ability to inspire and to lead the world through many industries, and we have done so. In health care, we attract the greatest minds of the world to come to America's marketplace. We attract at-risk capital to press the bounds of science that improve the quality of life of our people and of millions around the world.

So, when we talk about health care reform, we want to preserve that which is right, and we want to work on that which is wrong. When my Democrat colleagues of the leadership talk about health care reform, it's about a government-run, socialized health system. Let's reject that and let's work together.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, there were those who doubted that we would pass children's health care or the budget or the stimulus. Well, I rise today to say that we are going to pass comprehensive health insurance reform because it's so vitally important for our Nation's economy.

As we see the stock market rising and as we see home sales regaining, we see the Richmond Fed report of a very positive manufacturing uptick in the economy, we know with certainty that health care is important. Not only do we need to have a robust private-sector health insurance option for the public, but we need to have an option for patients if they're turned away, so we need a public option.

The previous majority had 8 years to do something on health care and did nothing. We see a lot of energy today in their speeches, but when they were in charge and when they had the White House, they had no concern for the tens of millions of uninsured Americans and for those kicked off of private health insurance because of preexisting conditions.

We're not going to talk about it. We're going to vote about it really soon on this House floor.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, as the American people struggle to make ends meet, too many also live with the challenge of affording basic health care for themselves and for their families.

When I was home this past weekend, I heard from my constituents on a number of issues, but health care was prime on their minds. They were concerned about the plan on the table. They have great concern with regard to the provisions in there and with regard to the rationing of care. They're very concerned about the possible loss of the doctor-patient relationship. Small businesses are concerned about the tax provisions in the bill that may cost them not only the employees they have but their businesses on the whole.

At a time when we need to be helping small business, we're adding another burden onto them. Our side, that of the Republicans, has a plan to address each of these concerns in a way that solves problems rather than creates a lot of government bureaucracy, which actually takes over 18 percent of our economy. My constituents believe that the administration's plan on the table is the wrong plan at the wrong time and that it will have the wrong outcome.

THE HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, this 1,017-page bill passed in Labor. It passed in Ways and Means. It's only waiting on one committee at this point. What is clear is that it uses our tax money to kill innocent, little babies through abortion. It's clear that it uses our tax money to allow people to kill themselves. What's unclear is anything in between.

Part of the reason this chart is being censored, I've concluded, is that it actually oversimplifies this bill. As for this position here, that of the health administrator, I asked in our markup, What defines a full-time employee? Is it 40 hours, 35 or 30 hours? Well, that will be up to the health care administrator. What about seasonal employees? Are they counted? Well, that will be up to the health care administrator. What about if you're above the small business amount and then you drop below it because you've laid off people? Well, that will be up to the health care administrator.

This was all night long. We were in session all night long, marking up this bill. The committee kept saying, Well, we don't want the businesses to game this bill, so we're not going to put it in the bill that defines "full time." They