

At least 62 people are working for the Newark Housing Authority, including union workers, to renovate vacant apartments and to prepare for future construction. These are just a few of the projects, but it's not just New Jersey that is seeing jobs increase as a result of the stimulus funding.

Yesterday, The New York Times highlighted Perry County, Tennessee, where hundreds of laid-off workers are now, once again, back to work. Since deciding to use the stimulus money to employ 300 jobs, ranging from the State Transportation Department to small businesses, the unemployment has dropped from 27 to 22 percent in that county. That's where the jobs went.

AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE HEALTH CHOICES ACT ADDRESSES PRIMARY CARE

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, finding a uniquely American solution to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, meaningful health coverage must also ensure adequate access to health care providers and services.

Primary care providers are on the front line of our health care system, treating acute and chronic problems and keeping costly conditions from worsening. Yet, despite this essential role, it is primary care where we face the most acute shortages.

Since 1998, the percentage of residents choosing primary care has dropped from 50 percent to 20 percent. By 2025, America will have a shortage of 46,000 primary care providers.

I am very proud that the provisions in the health care reform legislation that is moving through Congress will address this impending crisis. It provides scholarships and loan repayments to primary care providers. It increases payments for primary care services. It eliminates copayments for Medicare beneficiaries who seek preventative care, and it creates incentives for doctors and nurses to coordinate care for patients with multiple chronic conditions.

These are significant reforms that will improve access to primary care, that will improve health outcomes, and that will improve health care costs. We should support better health care for Americans by supporting health care reform.

SMALL BUSINESSES CANNOT AFFORD THE STATUS QUO IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I just held a roundtable in my district to hear from small business owners on how they feel about health care reform. Each of the small business owners

agreed that the system is broken and that keeping the status quo will only hurt small businesses in New Mexico.

With skyrocketing health care costs, many of these small businesses have been forced to consider layoffs and have been forced to consider lowering wages. In some cases, discontinuing insurance coverage for their employees has been the only way to avoid going out of business.

There is no doubt that our broken health care system is bad for America's small businesses. We can, and we must do better. We need a long-term, viable solution that creates stability, that prevents insurance companies from cherry-picking customers and businesses. We need a solution that supports a healthy workforce and that improves employee productivity. Now is the time to reform our health care system. Our small businesses cannot afford the status quo.

THE OBAMA-PELOSI GOVERNMENT HIJACKING OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about the Obama-Pelosi government hijacking of health care, the more we recognize how terrible the plan is. Let me point out just a few things that we've recently learned about the Democrat bill.

First and foremost, the Democrat bill creates a government-run health care plan that will ration care, that will remove choice and that will decrease the quality of health care for Americans. The bill imposes not only an employer mandate on health benefits, but it also creates a fleet of government auditors who will sail in to inspect every employer in the Nation to assess the health benefits they offer to a standard even the Democrats admit they haven't ascertained yet.

Individuals and employers will be taxed to pay for the public plan, and an independent commissioner, not accountable to anyone, will set the reimbursement rate for health care providers and will have power over what will and will not be covered.

Everyone over age 65 will be required to have an end-of-life consultation with their physicians and to assess that plan every 5 years. Democrats don't know why any Member of Congress would read a bill that's over 1,000 pages. Now we are learning why—apparently because they don't want us to know or the American people to know what the health care plan holds.

PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I hope that our friends on the Republican side of the aisle who don't

want us to fix our health care system will listen to their constituents when they go home in August because they'll hear stories like I've heard in Connecticut.

A woman in Thomaston, Connecticut, contacted me about her own horrific experience. She had a pulmonary embolism and was told by her doctor that she was in danger of losing her leg, but her insurance company decided not to pay for the surgery on the grounds that it was cosmetic. Her appeal was denied, and she lost the leg.

One of the biggest lies I hear about our health care system is that, if you have insurance, you're all set. Well, this woman had coverage, and it failed her. The cost of our broken system can't be measured just in dollars and cents. It's so much more. We have a system that just doesn't value keeping people healthy, and we can change this by passing health care reform.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 19. Joint resolution granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER WILL RUIN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, think about it—government-run health care.

Now, the argument being made by my friends on the other side is that the only reason it hasn't worked everywhere it has been tried is that the right people aren't in charge. Think about that. It has never worked anywhere. It doesn't work.

An individual I represent, who lives in Mission Viejo, was a doctor for 60 years in the United States and in Canada. He holds two of the highest degrees in medicine. He said it not only hurts the poor; it hurts the wealthy, it hurts everybody. If you want to ruin health care, have the government take it over.

Now, the argument is we'll just have the government compete with the private sector. Think about that. Where does the government get the money? From you—the taxpayers—and the private sector has to charge people to provide health care. There is no way in the world the private sector can compete with government when the government is funded by unlimited amounts of money that they extort from you, the working people.

If you want health care in this country to be of quality and to be good,