

to protect the trial lawyers' share of jury awards. Malpractice has proven to cost the health care system billions of dollars each year, but the reforms being proposed make the current system worse.

This bill taxes everyone and everything. It taxes medical devices. It taxes individuals who choose not to purchase insurance. It drives up premiums for individuals who do purchase insurance. It taxes employers who fail to offer health insurance. It then taxes them further if they try to increase their employees' wages. It taxes small business owners, who would be creating jobs and getting us out of this recession. Instead, it forces them to cut jobs or wages. It taxes health savings accounts, which reduces the use of catastrophic health insurance coverage.

It cuts Medicare. Home health care, skilled nursing facilities, and Medicare Advantage will all be cut. Seniors with prescription drug coverage will see their premiums increase. Seniors oppose this bill because they get it. Their care is going to be decreased, and costs are going up.

After the bill finishes up taxing everything and everyone, it spends all that money even faster. Despite the fact I've never heard anyone say they want access to this program, the bill dramatically expands Medicaid. It creates a huge, new Federal bureaucracy to navigate through, and it funds a government competitor to private insurance companies which will syphon people off of private insurance onto a Medicaid-like program, just like Tennessee did with TennCare.

After the Democrats finish spending \$1.5 trillion, they say the bill is "deficit neutral," but they ignore that every major government health care expansion before it—Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, which are just to name a few—have cost more than originally estimated. They completely ignore the fact that they use 10 years of revenue to pay for 7 years of new spending. In the second decade, this program will become an enormous unfunded mandate on State governments, on individuals, and on the Federal Government. Despite the largest deficit in our Nation's history, the Democrats are irresponsibly going forward to make it harder than ever to balance the budget.

Here is the bottom line: The bill costs too much. It taxes too much. It does little to improve health care. It will result in the majority of Americans being left with decreased access, decreased quality, and increased costs. It is, as *The Wall Street Journal* called it, the worst bill ever, and it deserves to be rejected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SESTAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A GRIM ACCOUNTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House passed H.R. 3548, which extends unemployment benefits in States with high unemployment rates, and it continues and expands the popular tax credit to encourage home buyers into the market.

Mr. Speaker, I know these are very popular programs, but I believe that they are taking us in exactly the wrong direction. By increasing taxes to finance these programs, the government is placing increasing burdens on the economy which I believe are actually making the recession worse.

I am concerned that, by raising taxes, we end up making more people unemployed, and I believe that, by paying people to buy homes, we are creating yet another housing bubble that will continue to drain the resources of our Nation until it bursts. Let me walk through both of those concerns.

Under this bill, unemployed workers in States like my home State of California can draw up to 99 weeks of unemployment benefits—almost 2 full years. Now, I realize the quiet panic that haunts every waking and sleeping moment of unemployed families as they wonder from one day to the next how they're going to get by. I've known that feeling myself.

Yet there is a reason that California suffers one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation. It has one of the highest tax and regulatory burdens in the Nation. Business and investment and the jobs that they create flee such hostile environments and seek out less expensive and less burdensome places. One needs only to watch the domestic migration within our own Nation from high-tax, high-regulated States to low-tax, low-regulated States to see this happening right now before our very eyes.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill imposes a net tax increase of \$2.5 billion on our economy at a time when we can least afford it. It contributes to a self-defeating paradox: higher unemployment in order to help the unemployed. Yet we all know that the only antidote to unemployment is a genuine job.

It's true. Family breadwinners can see the additional unemployment checks in their hands, and they feel the immediate relief. That's why this bill is so popular. What they don't see are the jobs that could have ended their agony but that have now disappeared in order to pay the higher taxes to sup-

port those unemployment checks. It is a vicious, downward spiral that the supporters of this bill have already tacitly acknowledged when they admitted that they will have to return before the end of the year to extend the program yet again.

Simply stated, we cannot help the unemployed by creating more of them, yet that's exactly what programs like this are doing. We can see it in the steadily increasing unemployment figures despite record amounts of government spending and borrowing.

The second part of this bill is equally popular, and it is equally delusional. It extends and expands tax credits for home buyers to buy homes that they otherwise could not afford. Have we learned nothing from the past year of economic hardship? We all know that the catalyst for the current recession was a housing bubble that was created by government policies that encouraged lenders to make loans and borrowers to take loans to buy homes that everybody knew they couldn't afford.

What's our response now? We are going right back into that same market and are creating another bubble by, once again, encouraging home buyers to purchase homes that they otherwise couldn't afford. We're doing this just weeks after watching how the Cash for Clunkers program created the same artificial bubble in the automobile market, a bubble that came crashing down as soon as that program ended.

A society in which the government extracts billions of dollars from its economy in order to pay people to buy stuff they can't afford has a rendezvous with a grim accounting, and the longer these programs continue, the grimmer that accounting will be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak about the Democratic plan that will encompass 2,000-plus pages, 400,000 words, more than \$1.3 trillion in costs, over \$800 billion in tax increases, and the likelihood that it will kill more than 5 million jobs. Today, I would like to talk about the Republican alternative that will be offered when this legislation comes up for a vote, and I would like to contrast it with what we are talking about.

The Republican alternative lowers health care premiums. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the