

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 gentleman 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 gentleman 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

alternative would reduce health insurance premiums by up to 10 percent for employees who get coverage through small businesses with 50 or fewer employees. According to the CBO estimates, all told, under the GOP plan, premiums for millions of families would be nearly \$5,000 lower than Speaker PELOSI's cheapest insurance plan.

It guarantees affordable coverage for patients with preexisting conditions. The Republican alternative makes it illegal for an insurance company to deny coverage to someone with prior coverage on the basis of a preexisting condition. So, if you lose your health insurance because you lose your job, because you move or get divorced or just want to change plans, you are protected.

It protects seniors' Medicare benefits. Under the plan offered by Speaker PELOSI, there are more than \$500 billion in cuts in the Medicare program at a time when baby boomers—those born after World War II—are starting to retire. We're going to need to have reforms of the Medicare program to achieve savings, but those savings are going to have to be plowed back into the Medicare program to pay for the millions of Americans who are going to become eligible for that program.

□ 2015

The Republican alternative has no tax increases, none, nada, zip, period, no tax increases compared to more than \$800 billion in tax increases primarily focused on small businesses.

In fact, the Republican alternative encourages small businesses to offer health care coverage without taxing job creation. Unlike Speaker PELOSI's bill, which punishes small businesses with onerous mandates and exorbitant taxes that the CBO says will be passed on to the employees in the form of lower wages, the Republican alternative plan gives small businesses the power to pool together and offer health care at lower prices just as corporations and labor unions do.

It enacts real medical liability reform to cut down on the amount of defensive medicine, and the Congressional Budget Office says it will save the Medicare and Medicaid programs \$54 billion alone, much less additional savings that will come to private insurance companies and hospitals and doctors in terms of the reduction in defensive medicine that will be practiced. It prohibits abortion funding, a serious problem in the Democratic alternative that has caused a great deal of turmoil on their side of the aisle.

There's no entitlement expansions, forcing Americans on to a government-run plan, and it reduces the deficit. According to the CBO, the Republican alternative reduces the deficit by \$68 billion over the next 10 years and continues to reduce the deficit in the second budget window.

Compare this to the plan offered by Speaker PELOSI, which will raise pre-

miums on health insurance for individuals. It will reduce health care choices. It will cause delays and denials of care. It will take \$500 billion in Medicare cuts and \$729.5 billion in new taxes.

Now, this new bill that has been offered by the Democrats is 2,000 pages long. You may recall that the last bill offered by them was only a thousand pages long and had 53 new government agencies and programs. In fact, many may be familiar with this diagram that shows what additional new programs were created under the 1,000 page bill. You might think this is pretty confusing and would cause a lot of difficulty for a lot of people. Well, guess what?

With a 2,000-page bill they added another more than 90 new programs and agencies to the 53 that are on the original chart. Here is the original chart. This is all of the bureaucracy and confusion and cost that has been added in this new bill. If anyone on either side of the aisle has any doubt about whether the simple proposals offered by the Republican alternative have broad-based public support, most of these proposals, 60, 70, 80 percent of the American people support. Certainly they do not support this kind of bureaucracy. Certainly they do not support the kinds of tax increases that could cost as many as 5.5 million jobs, according to one projection out today. And they certainly do not support this kind of government takeover of our American health care system.

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

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

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me introduce you and my colleagues to someone. I would like to focus for just a moment on this first poster.

This is the Health Choices Czar. You may not know him today, but if Democrats have their way and they pass their government takeover health care, we will all know him soon enough.

In the fictional Hazzard County, Georgia, he was known as Boss Hogg from 1979 until 1985. Portrayed by the late actor Sorrell Booke, he was an infamous government corrupt official on "The Dukes of Hazzard," who every week tried to exert his will on the people he was supposed to be serving. On the show, if it wasn't for honest citizens like Bo and Luke Duke and Crazy Cooter, he might have been able to run Hazzard County into the ground.

Mr. Speaker, Boss Hogg is a fictional character. The Health Choices Czar created under the Democrats' health care bill, unfortunately, is not. This boss, created by President Obama and NANCY PELOSI, is very real. This boss will have the power to tell you what health products you can and cannot buy. This boss will be able to decide whether you need to pay him a tax. This boss will decide whether your health coverage is legal or not. In its roughly 2,000 page manifesto, this boss will soon control every decision you and your doctor want to make.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the health care debate, I have heard a number of complaints from the majority that we are focused too much on the number of pages in their government takeover bill. In addition to the sheer number of pages of H.R. 3962, I think it's equally important to point out other numbers associated with the bill that are even more troubling.

\$1.2 trillion—the total cost of the bill for the American taxpayer.

\$2.5 million—the cost of each of the 400,000 words in this bill for the American taxpayer.

\$730 million—this is the amount of new taxes created in this bill for small business, individuals who cannot afford health care coverage and employers who cannot afford to provide coverage that meets the Boss Hogg's standard.

10.2 percent—the Nation's current unemployment level reported just yesterday by the Department of Labor.

190,000—the number of jobs lost in the month of October reported yesterday by the Department of Labor.

5.5 million—the estimated number of jobs that could be lost as a result of taxes on businesses that cannot afford to provide health care coverage. This is according to a model developed by one of the President's chief economic advisers, Christina Romer.

114 million—that's the number of people who could lose their current health care coverage—coverage, of course, that they like—under the proposed government-run health plan in H.R. 3962.

3,425—Mr. Speaker, the number of times the word "shall" appears in H.R. 3962 that results in new duties for bureaucrats and mandates on individuals' businesses and states.

118—the number of new bureaucracies created by H.R. 3962.

Mr. Speaker, when the Democratic majority says Republicans focus too much on the number of pages of H.R. 3962, they really avoid a deliberative debate, because this bill is bad legislation. In fact, the editorial on Monday's Wall Street Journal called H.R. 3962, "The Worst Bill Ever." That editorial said, "Epic new spending and taxes, pricier insurance, rationed care, dishonest accounting: The Pelosi health bill has it all," and I am quoting the Wall Street Journal.

According to this editorial, Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats in Congress are more like Boss Hogg looking to