

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

exert their will on the American people than they are responsible Members of Congress. It states, "Democrats have dumped any pretense of genuine bipartisanship and moved into the realm of pure power politics."

Clearly, the Wall Street Journal understands the ramifications that this legislation has for the American people. Quite frankly, I agree with that paper's characterization of H.R. 3962 that, "In a rational political world, this 1,990-page runaway train would have been derailed months ago."

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in the case of this legislation, it seems to me like we live in Boss Hogg's Hazzard County, instead of a rationally based society. I urge my colleagues to look beyond the rhetoric that Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats use to promote "The Worst Bill Ever" and look at the numbers associated with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Boss Hogg went off the air in 1985. Unfortunately, this legislation is real and poses a real threat to the foundation of our health care system. Tomorrow, or whenever we vote on H.R. 3962, I hope all of my colleagues have the sense to defeat this irrational legislation.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I was here in this Chamber with my freshmen Republican colleagues, and we were preparing to do Special Orders about all the concerns we have with the 1,990-page Pelosi health care bill, and I had this bill with me, and it was in this bag. I was sitting in a chair and I was standing in the row next to it.

I was approached by one of the fine, dedicated public servants we have, employees here in this Chamber that are dedicated to our safety and security. They came up to me because somebody had observed this rather large unidentified object from the gallery and wanted to make sure that it wasn't something left there intentionally, a hazard. I assured him this was not a hazard to the Members here, that this was a 1,990-page Pelosi health care bill. Though, on second thought, it was a hazard, a hazard to anyone carrying it around, being as heavy as it is but a hazard to our health care system here in the country.

Mr. Speaker, my background is health care. Twenty-eight years I worked on rehabilitation services serv-

ing older adults, mostly, licensed as a nursing home administrator, dedicated to make a difference in the lives of individuals facing life-changing disease and disability. I am here with tremendous concerns on behalf of our seniors tonight on what this bill does to them.

Let me talk a little bit about Medicare. My Democratic colleagues must consider that Medicare is overfunded. I can tell you that it is not. Medicare today pays on the average of only 80 to 90 cents for every dollar of costs that a hospital or a doctor has, 80 to 90 cents. From the time that entitlement program was created, it was systematically underfunded.

This is a primary reason, actually, that commercial insurance is so expensive because of the underfunding of Medicare. Yet my Democratic colleagues consider Medicare overfunded. Well, how do I know this? Because the bill, this bill in front of me, has over a half a trillion dollars in Medicare cuts.

It must be overfunded in their minds if they can make half a trillion dollars in Medicare cuts. Where do those cuts fall at and where will they impact seniors? Well, it is going to impact seniors that go into hospitals, Medicare part A, significant cuts there, \$175 billion, a minimum of that. That's cuts to those hospitals, and I know hospitals in my district are lucky to make a 1 to 3 percent margin annually. Out of that, they hopefully give cost-of-living increases and invest in new life-saving technology.

But they don't stop there. The Democrats go on to cut Medicare in terms of skilled nursing facilities. Now that's an area where I was licensed as a nursing home administrator. People who go into nursing homes today are the sickest of sick. That's the only alternative they have when they need that high level of skilled care. To cut services there, that's just unacceptable.

Let's move on to Medicare part B. Those are physician services. They are also outpatient services like rehabilitation. When an older adult, a senior citizen, has a disease or disability and they need rehabilitation, well, that's funded by Medicare part B. But Medicare part B, also, under the Democratic plan is scheduled and slated for significant cuts.

Another one that is under Medicare part B is hospice services. Mr. Speaker, hospice services, that's a service that reaches out and provides services to people that are in their end days, people who are in the process of dying. Hospice service allows people to die with compassion and surrounded by friends and pain management. Yet the Democrats feel that Medicare is so overfunded that we can actually make cuts to hospice services.

Medicare part D. Pharmaceuticals. Well, I never heard anybody say that our seniors actually have more than enough resources coming into pharmaceuticals, but that's one of the lines within this.

Then there are wheelchair taxes, medical devices, medical devices that

are innovations that help people live with dignity, help people live with independence, to live outside of institutional settings, which are certainly more cost-effective places. Medical devices allow people an opportunity to be able to age in place for seniors.

Now, I assume my Democratic colleagues will assume that the people they tax, that will just come out of their pockets, but we know how that works. Taxes get passed on. And this will be passed on to the people on fixed incomes in this country, and that's unacceptable.

I want to talk briefly about the flawed math that went into this. One of my Democratic freshman colleagues, a Democrat that's on the Rules Committee, I heard him make a statement about how this bill is so much less expensive than the previous version we saw back in July. I have to tell you that's flawed math.

This bill was based on the fact that the Medicare growth rate would be at 4 percent. The average growth rate is 7 to 8 percent. In 2008, Medicare grew at 9 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

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

(Mr. HIGGINS 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 Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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#### A TANGLED WEB OF DECEIT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. You know, I thought about a little limerick Sir Walter Scott wrote. He was around back during those years during and after the American Revolution. But he penned an interesting line that went, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." I have heard that all my life, growing up as a kid. "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

Now, we had the President of the United States come into this Chamber right here and speak from that podium there, and he made the statement that there would be no abortion funded in the health care bill.

Apparently, there are other ways that this will be done or can be done. On page 110 of the health care bill we are supposed to vote on tomorrow, Subsection B is entitled "Abortions for