

NATIONALIZED HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the talk around town is universal health care for all Americans. This is a noble ideal and a great goal, but the real question is: Do we want universal health care run by the government or universal health care run by the private sector? That is the question to be asked and answered.

Even though every Nation that has tried socialized public health care has proven it's unaffordable, doesn't work and provides inferior health care, those who want the United States Government to run every aspect of our lives still demand public health care. Let's look at a couple of examples of socialized, nationalized health care:

Katie Brickell is a young woman who lives in Great Britain where they have government-run health care. When Katie was 19, she tried to get a test for cervical cancer, which is a matter of routine here in the United States. Katie was told that she had to wait until she was 20. When she tried again at 20, she was told that the age was moved to 25 so the government could save some money. While waiting 5 more years because some bureaucrat told her that's what she had to do, Katie got sick and was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Now some bureaucrat is telling this young lady, who is just starting out in her adult life, that her disease is not treatable, all because some bureaucrat said it cost too much. Neither Katie nor her doctor made a medical decision, but this no-named bureaucrat made all of these decisions. This is the British example of government-run, universal public health care.

Charlie Wadge lives in Canada where they have long waiting lines and rationed health care because they have a government-run system. Limping badly, Charlie was diagnosed with arthritis in his hip. When he needed his replacement surgery, the bureaucrats told him he'd have to be on a waiting list for between 18 months and 2 years before he could have that surgery. Charlie paid what we call a private medical broker, who negotiated a price for him to have surgery in the United States, in Oklahoma City.

□ 1845

He had to pay for the whole thing out of his pocket—and it's a good thing he had the money. At least he can walk. Left up to Canada's system of universal-run, government-rationed health care, he would have probably been permanently crippled by now.

Now if we want an example of what health care run by the American bureaucrats looks like, we should examine Medicare, Medicaid, or even the VA. These government programs are now a disaster. They waste so much money, and they will probably com-

pletely go bankrupt if they're not overhauled.

The Medicare program trustees just a week ago said the program has "unfunded liability" of nearly \$38 trillion. That's the amount of benefits promised to Americans but not paid by them through taxes. If we don't fix the waste and inefficiency in Medicare, Medicaid, and the VA, millions of people will not be treated properly. Taxes keep going up but these government-run health care services in the United States keep getting worse.

The kind of government-run health care that is being considered right now will have the same sort of underpayments to doctors and hospitals that we see in Medicare and Medicaid. Even with the massive taxes that would come up with this government health care program, if people think health care is expensive now, just wait until it's free.

The government underpaying for services will force the price of medical insurance so high to make up for the gap in what health care really costs that their employer will no longer be able to afford the health insurance.

Studies have shown the kind of government-run health care being worked on by Congress tonight, right now, will end up forcing 120 million Americans on the government plan for this very reason. 120 million Americans who get their health care from their jobs would have to go into the government system because their employer cannot afford to pay for the high cost of insurance. That's half of the Americans in this country today.

But the most frightening part of the government plans being considered is the rationing of health care for procedures based on cost, age, and survivability rate. Let me repeat: Health care will be rationed based on cost, age, and survivability rate.

Somebody needs to explain to me how it's an improvement in our health care system for somebody in Washington, D.C., to decide that someone can't have a cancer treatment because it's too expensive, like is happening in England right now. Or that people can't have a medical procedure because some bureaucrat thinks it's too expensive because they're too old. The patient and doctor will be completely cut out of the decisionmaking process. And that is wrong.

There's an alternative plan to put all Americans on universal coverage even without raising taxes. This idea would leave decisions about people's health care between their doctor and the patient, not the bureaucrats and the taxacrats in D.C. It's a plan to put everyone on private insurance plans. This deserves a close examination by this Congress.

We'd better take a long look at the choices we have, Mr. Speaker. If we go down the road of government-run health care in America, we will destroy the best health care structure in the world.

Mr. Speaker, the new government, nationalized, impersonal health care system will have the compassion of the IRS, the competence of FEMA, and the efficiency of the post office.

And that's just the way it is.

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

(Mr. QUIGLEY 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

INVISIBLE CHILDREN

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Imagine, if you can, living in a place so plagued by war and kidnapping that you have to walk up to 12 miles a day just to find a place to sleep at night that's safe. As Americans, I don't think we can fully grasp what that would be like. But, for thousands of children living in northern Uganda today, this is their daily commute. This is their life.

For fear of being abducted by rebel leader Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army, children living in rural homes and villages would walk to town centers to sleep where they could hope to be safe. The children were among the victims of a conflict that began in 1986, and that somehow still continues today in Uganda and neighboring countries.

Lacking support from the local population, Kony resorted to kidnapping children as young as 8 years old and conscripting them to his army. The children have been brutalized and forced to commit atrocities on fellow abductees and even siblings. The vicious initiations were meant to break the children's ties to their community and gain their loyalty to the LRA. More than 25,000 children have been abducted over the course of this 23-year conflict.

While many Americans first learned about this issue when they saw a film made by college-age students called Invisible Children, many more remain unaware of the violence and suffering happening half a world away. I was recently reminded of the severity of this situation when students in my hometown of Hays and the community of Sterling, Kansas, shared with me the latest news from this conflict.

In 2006, many were hopeful a peace agreement could be reached to allow a new generation of children to finally live a life free of fear. Although it appeared progress had been made, Kony

refused to sign the final agreement in 2008, and instead escalated his attacks. Since then, the LRA has killed more than 1,000, including more than 200 on Christmas Day. The LRA has also abducted more than 450 children during this time.

A few weeks ago, concerned citizens from around the world, in more than 100 cities, participated in an event called the Rescue to raise awareness about the conflict and call on their elected officials—people here in this House of Representatives—to take action. Two of these events were held in my home State—in Wichita and Kansas City.

I'm here today to join my voice with the voices of those that participated in the Rescue and to call on Congress to support efforts to end the violence and to rebuild shattered lives.

People look to the United States to defend those who cannot help themselves, to free the oppressed, and to champion the cause of freedom. This Congress can be the voice for those who have none.

As Brandon Nimz, a student at Fort Hayes State University, who is active in raising awareness about this issue, said in a recent letter to the editor, "In this time when the world does not look very kindly toward the United States, I believe we must show everyone that we're not driven solely by a need for power and influence—we do have a heart. Even though we will receive no political or economic gains by helping these defenseless villagers in the five affected African nations, it is the right thing to do."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, tonight let us show that America does indeed have that heart. Please join me in doing the right thing by taking action to help this conflict and protect the helpless.

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

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

107TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today because it is the 107th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cuba. May 20, 1902.

Most people, Mr. Speaker, think that independence of the Republic of Cuba was obtained from Spain. It was not. The fight was against Spain for almost 100 years. Hundreds of thousands of he-

roic Cubans lost their lives. Then, the United States intervened to help Cuba in 1898. And this Congress was instrumental in making certain that after there was pacification—and obviously Spanish colonialism had been expelled—that the Republic of Cuba would be possible.

The United States voluntarily left Cuba. Withdrew. Granted Cuba its independence by withdrawing. May 20, 1902.

So, today is an anniversary of a very important occasion. It's a sad anniversary, because 50 years ago the Cuban Republic fell in the hands of a demented serial killer, a demonic mass murderer, Fidel Castro. And he continues to rule. He has been ill for some years and so he has granted some titles of power to his brother. But he continues to be the absolute, personal, total dictator of the totalitarian circus that oppresses the Cuban people.

There are hundreds of recognized prisoners of conscience—journalists, librarians, teachers, lawyers, physicians; people who simply have expressed their point of view that they want to see Cuba free. They're in the dungeons. And there are thousands of others who are there as well because they violated so-called laws that would not and do not exist in democratic nations. They're imprisoned for things such as dangerousness. Untold thousands thus are political prisoners in Cuba, suffering in the gulag because they have bothered that demonic mass murderer in some way, because they seek freedom, those political prisoners.

Now the system, the totalitarian system that has lasted 50 years, is rotten to the core, Mr. Speaker. Not only does it have the abject opposition, rejection of the entire people, in consensus fashion, the entire nation, but it's putrefied. It's absolutely rotten. And that system is in effect a corpse that is unburied.

So, when the dictator does finally die, that circus, that system, totalitarian, oppressive system will die with them. We have seen, in recent examples in very personalized dictatorships, whether it's Franco in Spain or Trujillo in the Dominican Republic, it's a matter of months or years. Their systems die with them. That's what we're going to see in Cuba.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a very important letter and list of signatories received just a few days ago. It was sent to the Organization of American States because there's this pathetic, grotesque effort to readmit the Cuban military dictatorship that's lasted 50 years into the inter-American system, including the Organization of American States. And 300 dissidents have signed this letter.

These are the heroes of Cuba; mostly young people, many of them wearing bracelets like this, calling for change. They're the future of Cuba. And I recommend to my colleagues and the

American people—and I will put it on my Web site—that they see the names of the future leaders of democratic Cuba.

TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Republic of Cuba, May 15, 2009

We, members of the Cuban democratic opposition, along with our brothers in the Resistance who are exiled, consider it necessary to address you in the name of our people's sovereign democratic aspirations.

We contemplate how a call for the readmission of the longest-lived and most oppressive of Latin American dictatorships to has been raised in the Latin American region, which, as if were not enough, the Castro dictatorship itself has reviled. It is a painful contradiction for the complete normalization of all ties with this tyrannical regime and the diplomatic acceptance of despotic rule on our Island to be proposed precisely on the 50th anniversary of the advent of totalitarianism in Cuba.

Cuba has not been separated from the OAS. It is the tyrannical regime which violates the public liberties of Cubans that has been separated. It is the Cuban nation which has continued to belong to this organization in symbolic tribute to the thousands of Cubans who have paid harshly for their democratic resistance against this regime.

Nevertheless, what worries us most is not the affront which would be committed against our rights by accepting the dictatorship which oppresses us as an equal in terms of the fundamental values of its democratic neighbors, but rather the damage that would be inflicted on the hemisphere itself.

It has cost great pain and sacrifice to banish dictatorships from our Latin America. To ignore the Inter American Democratic Charter, and specifically articles 1, 2, and 3 which state:

Article 1—The peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it.

Article 2—The effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States.

Article 3—Essential elements of representative democracy include, inter alia, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government.

To readmit the totalitarian Castro regime to the OAS would mean opening the door to every kind of future despotism for the region, and would portend grave and unpredictable consequences for the millions of human beings who are part of the Latin American community.

We ask you, in the name of the very values of civilization, not to take this step. To do so would be to lower our American democratic community to the level of totalitarian barbarism. The 1962 Resolution expresses a clear democratic principle: there can be no democratic tolerance for the institutionalized violation of human rights embodied totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist regimes.