again, Madam Speaker, Where are the jobs?

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, we're going to hear a lot of rhetoric on this House floor and throughout this city of why we shouldn't do health care reform, but we don't have to listen to people here in Washington, D.C. We need to listen to our folks at home about why we need to pass health care reform.

I recently was contacted by a woman from Waterbury, Connecticut, who suffers from type 2 diabetes. She worked her entire life, paid her bills, mortgage, did everything right. But now she's on COBRA and is about to lose it. Even though her diabetes is under control, every company refuses to insure her based on her preexisting condition.

She knows that getting sick and ending up in the hospital could put that home that she worked so hard for in jeopardy; and she writes to me, Somebody has to stop the insurance companies from making decisions regarding life and death.

Mr. Speaker, doing nothing here in the House of Representatives as our friends on the Republican side would like says to her that her situation is unsustainable, she has no way out. We need to pass health care reform to answer her and the thousands of constituents in each one of our districts just like her.

NO MESSAGE MACHINE

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely outrageous to say the Republicans want to do nothing on health care reform. We want to expand medical savings accounts; we want to do everything we can to build associated health plans so that small businesses out there working and struggling trying to create jobs in the private sector can come together and, in fact, purchase health insurance for their employees. We want to do everything that we can to allow people to, on the Internet, purchase health care insurance across State lines.

The fact is, it's no message machine or talking point to realize that the Congressional Budget Office has said that contrary to Speaker PELOSI's line, This is going to dramatically increase the cost of health care, and Robert Samuelson, no Republican he, in The Post yesterday said, If you listen to President Obama, his reform will satisfy most everyone. It will insure the uninsured, control runaway health spending, subdue future health budget benefits, preserve choice for payments and include quality of care.

He said these claims are self-serving exaggerations and political fantasies.

SYNIVERSE TECHNOLOGIES AND WELLNESS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, through health care reform, we're going to ensure that families are healthy and that we put money back into their pockets. And here's a great example:

Yesterday when I was home in Tampa, I paid a visit to Syniverse Technologies, a global communications firm that employs 650 people. We unveiled Syniverse's new onsite health clinic and wellness initiative. The workplace clinic is staffed with a medical assistant and a nurse practitioner, and employees love it.

The Syniverse team explained that they expect to save $1 million over the next 5 years due to the convenient clinic and their wellness initiative that encourages employees to lose weight, stop smoking, and lead healthier lives.

Syniverse employees don't have to miss work for doctor's appointments or to run to the drug store for simple prescriptions. They can bring their families there with no copay. It is smart, it is convenient and less expensive for employees, and it's smart for the companies because the employees will be more productive. Syniverse expects lower health insurance costs because the company's employees will be healthier.

One of the goals of the Democratic health care reform is to encourage these innovative community clinics and wellness initiatives for families and businesses so that health care is more convenient and it's more affordable for others.

DEMOCRATS' HEALTH REFORM PREDICTS A DANGEROUS OUTCOME

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Last week I came to the House floor to discuss how this Democrat Congress is bankrupting America. They continue to force massive spending through this body that has led to record unemployment and record deficits for America. Well, they're set to do it again this week with health care reform.

Three years ago, Massachusetts set out to accomplish universal coverage just like what the Democrats want to do for all of America. So far, the facts are plain. Insurance prices are higher than expected, safety net hospitals are struggling more than ever, doctors cannot keep up with the increased demand, and some people without insurance still cannot afford care.

The State legislature is already exploring options for rationed care to control health care spending, which, in Massachusetts, is 25 percent higher than the national average. This is a dangerous precedent to follow.

Many in Massachusetts are still uninsured, costs are skyrocketing, and the State is going bankrupt.

Mr. Speaker, not a good prescription for America.

HOPE IS ON THE WAY

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind everyone on both sides of the aisle, whether you're Republican, a Democrat, a Libertarian or an Independent, that hope is on the way.

We have some things we can agree upon. Isn't it a fact that we all agree that it's time to end discrimination in health care where insurance companies are allowed to discriminate against you because of a preexisting condition? I think it's time.

We secured equal treatment at the lunch counter 50-some years ago; and this year, we're going to come to some agreement here in the House to end the discrimination in health care and bring equality to the pharmacy counter as well. We can all agree it's time to end the discrimination in health care due to preexisting conditions, to pass a bill that has a standard plan, an insurance plan that includes all Americans, a standard plan that each and every insurance company must sell to any citizen throughout the land.

In this House, at this time, we can agree on these things.

CHANGE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INTERNALLY

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly right: there are things we can agree on. In fact, there are things we have already agreed on. The minority has never reached out on issues to the majority more aggressively than on this one, where we have said we want a plan where everyone has access regardless of preexisting conditions. We want more competition and more choice that we believe will impact price. We are not satisfied with the current system.

Internally, we think you change this system by medical malpractice reform, by more health IT, by more transparency of both results, cost and care. Those are the principles we ought to be advancing.

The administration insists that this be done their way. We are not for government takeover of health care. We're for a system that works better for the American people, and we stand ready to work together to make that system happen.