

not resolve the underlying problems driving costs for small businesses and families.

We have the opportunity in the next few weeks to do something right and good for the American people, to strengthen our Nation's health care by improving health outcomes while reducing costs and protecting vulnerable persons.

READ THE BILL

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

Mr. SCALISE. On the heels of the failed stimulus bill that added another roughly \$1 trillion of debt to our Nation's debt, also leading to about another two million people losing their jobs in this country and then that cap-and-trade energy tax proposal that literally would run millions of jobs out of our country, most Americans across our Nation are saying, Where are the jobs?

And, instead, the latest proposal by President Obama and Speaker PELOSI is this attempt to mandate a government takeover of our health care system.

And, you know, the President goes out and he gives these speeches. And he says under his plan if you like the plan that you have, you can keep it. Well, unfortunately, I don't think the President has read his bill because if you look right here in section 102 of the bill, it says that the government health care czar is going to be able to take away your health care plan even if you like it. It's right here in the bill.

Another part, Mr. Speaker, of what the President says is anybody who makes under \$250,000 a year won't pay anymore in new taxes. Once again, maybe the President hasn't read his own bill, but in his health care bill right here in section 401, tax on individuals without acceptable health care, \$29 billion in new taxes.

Read the bill.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Democrat majority's government-run health care plan. That is a phrase that the Speaker of the House does not want us to use. She's told us we can't use it in our mail. We're supposed to use the "public option."

Well, to use the word that the President apparently likes, the American people aren't stupid. They know it's government-run health insurance, and they don't want it. They know the Democrat majority proposes to cut costs by rationing care by deciding whether or not you get to go to the doctor, which doctor you get to go to;

if you need a specialist, which specialist you need to go to, when you need to go; if you need surgery, when you get to go, if you get to go.

And most importantly, end-of-life care for our seniors. The government wants to decide whether or not certain seniors will get procedures they need to enhance their quality of life and whether or not the computer model determines that that's not the highest and best use of their health care dollars.

American people don't want that. They want real reform just like the Republicans do. We want to have cost control, we want quality, we want access with real reform like tort reform.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

HEALTH CARE AND TAXES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that real health care reform is a necessity; but in the haste to get this done, the wrong approach to achieve this worthy goal would be to increase taxes, especially on our small businesses. These vital small business owners are already straining not to cut jobs and wages. Most small business owners want to offer health insurance to their employees, but they simply cannot because the already-inflated costs just continue to increase.

What we need is true health care reform that brings down the cost of care in our country. We find creative ways to hide the actual costs of taxes and mandates. That makes no sense for Americans, no sense for our small businesses, and certainly no sense for our future generations who will be saddled with a lot of debt.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE ARE THE JOBS

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people have every right to ask where the jobs are. They know we are losing a half million jobs each month, and yet they saw this Democratic majority pass an energy bill that will raise utility rates for every American. Now they see the Obama White House and the Democrats pushing to drastically cut

Medicare and massively raise taxes on small businesses to pay for their government takeover of health care. The people know that will mean millions more jobs lost.

We need tax credits, Mr. Speaker, to help make health care more affordable and accessible, not massive tax hikes. We need job creation. We need more jobs, not massive layoffs caused by massive tax increases.

PROTECTING LIVES, KEEP IT OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I agree that the cost of health care has become expensive for my constituents, too expensive for my constituents and all Americans. What we need is to reform the current system and not turn it over to the government.

Letting patients choose the coverage that reaches their health care needs should be the focus. This is not a one-size-fits-all conclusion. Just ask my constituents Brad and Christy Norwood. They became the proud parents of Brycen in May of 2008. At birth, he appeared to be a healthy baby boy, but during a routine exam, a nurse discovered a heart murmur that was keeping blood from reaching his lower extremities. One week later, he underwent surgery to correct the problem; and thankfully today, Brycen is a happy, healthy 1-year-old.

His parents hate to think that if the proposed health care plan had been in place, the decision about Brycen would have to go through a government bureaucracy and could have possibly taken too long to save his life.

Let's not put Brycen's life or anyone else's in the hands of a government bureaucrat.

HEALTH CARE MONTH

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

Mr. MCHENRY. The Democrats' health care bill is bad legislation. But don't take my word for it. All you have to do is look at the chaos on the other side of the aisle as their leadership freely admits August would be like kryptonite to their proposal. If they truly believe this legislation was a cure-all for health care reform, they would relish the opportunity to send their Members home to build public support for it. But, no, the Democrat leadership is in desperation mode because they know their bill will not hold up under public scrutiny.

So let's tap the brakes, let's engage our constituents and the American people in this discussion about our goals for health care reform. August can become health care month in America if only the Democrat leadership will listen to reason and we can engage our constituents in the debate.

The Democrats' goal should not be to get this done fast, but to get it right for the American people. That's what I'm fighting for, and that's what this debate should be all about.

HEALTH REFORM INITIATIVE

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just take a moment and speak about two very important elements in the health reform initiative that we are considering in the House. Both of these are things that will help to strengthen the relationship between the physician and the patient.

The first is something called medical-loss ratio. That's a technical term, but it basically means how much does that insurance company use of the premium you give them to actually spend on medical care. If they don't spend at least 85 cents on the dollar, it means they're not giving the kind of care to the patient that they deserve.

The second important thing is the investment in preventive care that we're going to make in this bill so that a physician can spend more time with the patient. There are elderly patients all across the country who wish that their physician could spend a little bit more time with them to really understand their situation. We don't reimburse for that right now. But going forward, we can do that, and that will promote the relationship between the physician and their patient and lead to overall better care for that patient and a better relationship with that patient's family.

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HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have a plan to make health care more affordable and promote choice and competition among health plans. Unfortunately, the House Democrats' health care bill is light on cost control and heavy on government control.

A recent New York Times editorial expressed support for the House bill, but described the prospects for lower health care premiums as "unclear" and "distant."

Mr. Speaker, if that's the best the bill's supporters can say about it, it's time to start over. We need a bill that gets health care costs under control without bankrupting our country or setting the stage for a complete government takeover of our health care system.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration and congressional Democrats promised us that the trillion dollar stimulus that they passed and put into law would create jobs immediately. Well, last month alone we lost almost a half-million jobs, unemployment stands at 9.5 percent and going higher. It's clear that the stimulus package didn't work.

And their response has been, first, they passed an energy tax that's going to make America less competitive and drive American jobs offshore.

They're now in the process of increasing spending in the appropriations process by 12 percent.

And now this week they're trying to ram down a health care plan that's going to raise taxes on American business, cost jobs, and force people into a government-run, rationed health care plan.

All one has to do is look at this chart to understand the complexities and the inefficiencies they're going to put into this system. I might add this is a chart that they won't allow Republicans to mail out to our constituents to try to explain the complexities that they're going to put into health care.

The height of hypocrisy, though, was when in committee Republicans offered an amendment that would force all Members of Congress to participate in their health care plan, and what did they do? They voted it down. They won't allow the Congress to be in the health care plan that they're trying to pass.

JUST WHO ARE THE "UNINSURED"?

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the House majority presses hard to force-feed to Congress a government takeover of health care in the next few days, it would be very instructive to answer the question: Just who are the "uninsured"?

The most recent Census Bureau report of 2007 said that there were roughly 46 million people in this country labeled as "uninsured": 9.5 million were noncitizens; 18 million were between the ages of 18 and 30; 12 million people had household incomes less than \$25,000, which means they already qualify for existing public health care programs; 7.3 million had annual incomes higher than \$84,000, putting health coverage within their own financial reach; and 9.1 million were uninsured for less than 1 year—and half of these people regained their health coverage within 4 months.

This leaves 7.8 million lower income Americans who can be characterized as the long-term uninsured. Yet the majority is promising trillion dollar legislation that "significantly expands the Federal responsibility for health care costs."

And how do they pay for it? Taxes, more taxes, more taxes.

THE DEMOCRAT PLAN: A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, if the need to reform our health care system wasn't so serious, the Democrat government takeover of health care might actually be humorous. It's laughable that their idea of "cost-cutting reform" is a bill that will increase the Federal deficit by \$239 billion over 10 years and includes a \$1.3 trillion spending increase. Only in Washington, D.C., does cutting costs mean spending more money.

America's small businesses, including our Nation's farmers, are going to be hit the hardest by this huge expansion of government through billions of dollars in new taxes and mandates, and yet the bill doesn't even address the seasonal workforce that farmers rely on to harvest their crops. Once again, small business and rural America are swept under the rug and forgotten, but not before they get a huge tax bill.

The bottom line is that the Democrats' public option is a sneaky plan to take over private health care.

Mr. Speaker, get me a doctor. The idea of government taking over health care is enough to make you sick.

THE HOUSE HEALTH CARE BILL SETS THE TONE FOR A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the health care system that we have in America is the best that the world has to offer. Do we need to improve it? Absolutely. But the question is how far do we go?

Do we tax the employer, who is now struggling to make ends meet, increase payroll taxes by 8 percent? No. We give that employer an advantage, an incentive to provide health care. Give him a tax break. Give the employee a tax break so they can go out and buy their own insurance. So give them an incentive.

But if we go and pass this bill, the government-run-all health care plan, we are going to break the backs of small businesses across this Nation that are the backbone of this Nation. Then we will hear a cry, Where are the jobs?

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the national debt has topped \$11 trillion, unemployment has reached a 26-year high of 9.5 percent in June, and some believe it