the best health care system and financing, and that is the operation we are undertaking here in the Congress.

WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONGRESS?

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, before the August recess, I introduced a resolution to hold Members accountable for their health care reform decisions. House Resolution 615 simply states that if Members of Congress vote for the government takeover of health care, they agree to give up their private insurance paid for by the taxpayers and enroll in the government-run plan. So far, 78 Republican Members have joined as cosponsors but not one Democrat.

Over 750,000 Americans from every State have contacted my office in support of this resolution. They are demanding that if government-run health care is good enough for Americans young and old, then it should certainly be good enough for the Members of Congress and their families.

How dare Congress force government-run health care down the throats of our fellow Americans and not be willing to choose it for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard people speak out on this. Isn't it time for every Member of this body to stand up and be accountable to the people they represent by taking a dose of their same medicine they prescribe to their constituents?

To my fellow Congressmen, won't you now join me in cosponsoring House Resolution 615 and prove that personal accountability finally does exist in Washington?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, throughout the August recess, like my colleagues, I met with thousands of my constituents in Maryland's Fourth Congressional District. I heard the stories of so many who go to work every day but who also go without health insurance or with inadequate insurance to meet their family's needs.

I heard from seniors whose out-of-pocket costs are soaring, families with insurance but who have been broken and bankrupt because of a tragic illness, parents concerned about their newly adult children who are no longer eligible for health benefits, and small businesses that want to provide health insurance but can't because of the staggering costs.

It's time for us to stop talking and to start acting to provide quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all. We can't allow the loudest voices backed by corporate special interests, health insurance companies, and drug companies to stand in the way of meaningful reform. And we can't just tinker around the edges of reform either without bringing down costs and providing accountability.

I join my colleagues in Congress in support of a robust public health insurance option that relies on Medicare providers as an essential mechanism to encourage real competition, lower costs for all Americans and keep insurance and drug companies honest.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight President Obama will address a joint session of Congress to make yet another appeal for his health care plan.

According to an analysis by CBS News, the President has already delivered 27 speeches on the issue of health care. Tonight will mark speech number 28. Yet with each passing day, as the American public digs deeper into the details of the plan, they learn that the President's rhetoric doesn't always fit with reality.

Pushing for a government takeover of health care with new spin will not change the minds of the American people who strongly and correctly oppose a government-run insurance plan.

Tonight the President should reset on his health care plan and begin working with Republicans on bipartisan reform that addresses the concerns of Americans and that the American people can support.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Maureen Dowd had it right in her column today when she said there's a lot of confusion and skepticism out in the American public about the health care plan. There isn't, however, a lot of opposition. What I've found is that once you spend time with the American people explaining things like the public option, they become very supportive, as national polls now show. And why shouldn't they? There are lots of examples of public and private competition in this country.

We spend billions of dollars as a society on bottled water every day when there is a public option, a much less expensive public option, turning on the faucet. Millions of Americans every day face the choice, they can drive their car to work or they can take the public option, a bus or a metro line.

We understand in this country that sometimes competition and choice make a difference for the American people. When we adopt the public option as part of our health care reform package, we will make a difference in the health care delivery system in this country, and the American people will benefit from it.

PASSING ALONG CONCERNS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM FROM ARKANSAS' THIRD DISTRICT RESIDENTS

(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, during the August work period, I heard from thousands of Arkansans about health care reform. I promised my constituents that I would bring their stories and thoughts back to Washington so we can enact commonsense health reforms and have wide support throughout the country.

While residents of the Third District are supportive of reform to cut the cost of health care and make it more affordable and accessible to all Americans, there is a consensus that the reforms currently under consideration by Congress aren't what they want. The overwhelming majority of citizens I heard from don't want the government to federalize their health care.

We can create a better plan for health care reform that includes fixing the fraud in the Medicare and Medicaid systems, implementing tort reform and allowing Americans to own their own health insurance like they own their own car insurance.

Congress needs to listen to what the American public is saying. Do not support federalizing health care. Don't destroy the good things of the American health system while trying to fix the bad.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I, like other Members of Congress, went home and had a townhall meeting on health care and met with many doctors. What I found is that the American public knows that the system is broken and that we need to change. The difficulty I have got in my district is I'm for a public option. But I'm not drawing a line in the sand to say I won't vote for a bill that improves the health care system, that takes care of the problem concerning preexisting conditions, that gives more wellness and preventative programs and that sees that we have more family doctors and health centers.

For that, the liberals in my district, and I'm a liberal, are upset with me because I haven't said I won't vote for a bill that doesn't have a public option. On the other hand, there are people that are against health care at all, and if I vote for anything, they will be upset.

Tonight the President of the United States will address the Nation. I plan