

practices do drive up the cost of health care. It's at least 10 percent of overall cost and as much as 40 percent of some procedures, and it should be aggressively tackled.

This is what we have been saying on the Republican side for years. But who is it? Who will take on this difficult task? And just how committed is President Obama in taking on medical malpractice reform and protecting medical providers from trial lawyers? A simple Google search shows that Secretary Sebelius was the executive director and the head lobbyist for the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association for 8 years. That's right, Secretary Sebelius, head of the Health and Human Services, was a deep political professional and has personal ties with trial lawyers and has been tapped by the President to go after these same trial lawyers and figure out just what kind of malpractice reform should be put in place.

I think this is a classical example of what we call a conflict of interest. The President has made several publicly embarrassing gaffes recently, and when it comes to vetting these people, I would hope that he takes more time in vetting Secretary Sebelius.

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.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the President said last night, and I mentioned it a few minutes ago, that if anybody in this body told an untruth about his proposals on health care he was going to call them out. Well, as I said before, that's a double-edged sword because I think the President made a number of misstatements last night that need to be corrected. And the American people need to know what they were. As a matter of fact, one of the things he needs to do is he needs to take on the Associated Press because they have a news article out today that says Obama uses iffy math on deficit pledge, and they point out that his arithmetic isn't quite accurate.

But let me go into some of the specifics. He said last night, "Nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have." Let me repeat this: nothing in our plan requires you to change what you have. The majority leader just a few minutes ago said we really need to keep the public option in, and that's what they would like to bring to the floor.

Well, let's say they do that. If you're an employer, and it costs more than 8 percent to take care of your employees and health insurance, you can dump

them on the government plan for 8 percent. So if you're spending 10 percent to pay for your employees' health insurance and you want to cut your costs, all you have to do is put them on the government plan and pay 8 percent.

And so there is an inducement for people to go on the government plan, especially if the employer's transferring them. And as a matter of fact, independent experts all agree that the legislation proposed would result in millions of Americans losing the coverage they have. The Congressional Budget Office, this body right here, this budget office, believes several million will lose their coverage. The Urban Institute says it will be up to 47 million, and the Lewin Group says it will be up to 114 million.

So I would say, Mr. President, that's not quite accurate. He also said, "Under my plan, individuals will be required to carry basic health insurance just as most States require you to carry auto insurance." That is going to be what they call a government mandate. And one of his senior Obama administration officials recently wrote that a mandate is, in many respects, analogous to a tax and, furthermore, has the potential to be a very regressive tax, penalizing uninsured people who genuinely cannot afford to buy coverage.

Thus, this policy stance breaks the signal promise of the Obama campaign when he said, I can make a firm pledge, under my plan no family making less than 250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase, not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains tax, not any of your taxes.

Not accurate. The President said, "There are those who claim that our reform effort will insure illegal aliens or immigrants. This too is false. The reforms I'm proposing would not apply to those who are here illegally." Look at H.R. 3200, their bill. It says, nothing in any of the Democrat bills would require individuals to verify their citizenship or identity prior to receiving taxpayer subsidized benefits, making the President's promise one that the legislation itself does not keep. So that wasn't accurate, Mr. President.

And here's another quote and one more misunderstanding I want to clear up: "Under our plan, no Federal dollars will be used to fund abortions and Federal conscience laws remain in place." Fact: the National Right to Life Committee, among another independent pro-life groups, have confirmed that the legislation will result in Federal funds being used to pay for abortions, both through the government-run health plan and through Federal subsidies provided through the exchange, despite various accounting gimmicks created in an Energy and Commerce Committee "compromise plan." Much of the rest would be paid for with revenues from the very same drug and insurance companies that stand to benefit from tens of millions of new customers.

The President said reducing the waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid will pay for most of this plan. Much of the rest would be paid for with revenues from the very same drug and insurance companies that stand to benefit from tens of millions of new customers. Fact: the Congressional Budget Office, our body, has previously found that the cuts to Medicare Advantage plans included in the Democrat legislation would result in millions of seniors, millions of seniors, losing their current plan, a direct contradiction of the President's assertion that nothing in this plan requires you to change what you have.

□ 1300

So that's not quite true. It's not true at all.

The President last night:

This reform will charge insurance companies a fee for their most expensive policies, which will encourage them to provide greater value for the money, an idea which has the support of Democrat and Republican experts, and according to these same experts, this modest change could help hold down the cost of health care for all of us in the long run.

Fact: While some Republicans support addressing the current employee exclusion for health insurance in the context of overall tax reform, the President's proposal would raise fees in order to finance new Federal spending—a tax increase of hundreds of billions of dollars and one that most of us on the Republican side would never support.

Fact: You can keep your current insurance. However if it costs your employer more than 8 percent for your health coverage he would consider paying 8 percent and put you on a government plan.

Quote: "Nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have. Let me repeat this: nothing in our plan requires you to change what you have."

Fact: Independent experts all agree that the legislation proposed would result in millions of Americans losing the coverage they have—the Congressional Budget Office believes several million, the Urban Institute up to 47 million, and the Lewin Group as many as 114 million.

Quote: "Under my plan, individuals will be required to carry basic health insurance—just as most states require you to carry auto insurance."

Fact: Senior Obama Administration official Sherry Glied has previously written that a mandate "is in many respects analogous to a tax"—and furthermore has the potential to be a "very regressive tax, penalizing uninsured people who genuinely cannot afford to buy coverage." Thus this policy stance breaks the signal promise of the Obama campaign: "I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes."

Quote: "There are also those who claim that our reform effort will insure illegal immigrants. This, too, is false—the reforms I'm proposing

would not apply to those who are here illegally.”

Fact: Nothing in any of the Democrat bills would require individuals to verify their citizenship or identity prior to receiving taxpayer-subsidized benefits—making the President’s promise one that the legislation itself does not keep.

Quote: “And one more misunderstanding I want to clear up—under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place.”

Fact: The National Right to Life Committee, among other independent pro-life groups, have confirmed that the legislation will result in federal funds being used to pay for abortions—both through the government-run health plan, and through federal subsidies provided through the Exchange, despite various accounting gimmicks created in an Energy and Commerce Committee “compromise.”

Quote: “I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits—either now or in the future. Period.”

Fact: The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has found that H.R. 3200 would increase deficits by \$239 billion over 10 years—and also found that the legislation “would probably generate substantial increases in federal budget deficits” thereafter. The Peter G. Peterson Foundation released a study today which found that in its second decade, H.R. 3200 would increase federal deficits by more than \$1 trillion.

Quote: “Not a dollar of the Medicare trust fund will be used to pay for this plan.”

Fact: Among more than \$500 billion in proposed savings from Medicare, the Democrat bills also propose redirecting \$23 billion from the Medicare Improvement Fund to fund new health care entitlements. According to current law, the Medicare Improvement Fund is designated specifically “to make improvements under the original Medicare fee-for-service program.”

Quote: “Reducing the waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid will pay for most of this plan. Much of the rest would be paid for with revenues from the very same drug and insurance companies that stand to benefit from tens of millions of new customers.”

Fact: The Congressional Budget Office has previously found that the cuts to Medicare Advantage plans included in the Democrat legislation would result in millions of seniors losing their current plan—a direct contradiction of the President’s assertion that “nothing in this plan requires you to change what you have.”

Quote: “This reform will charge insurance companies a fee for their most expensive policies, which will encourage them to provide greater value for the money—an idea which has the support of Democratic and Republican experts. And according to these same experts, this modest change could help hold down the cost of health care for all of us in the long-run.”

Fact: While some Republicans support addressing the current employee exclusion for health insurance in the context of overall tax reform, the President’s proposal would raise “fees” in order to finance new federal spending—a tax increase of hundreds of billions of dollars, and one that many Republicans may not support.

Quote: “Add it all up, and the plan I’m proposing will cost around \$900 billion over ten years.”

Fact: The Congressional Budget Office, in its score of H.R. 3200 as introduced, found that the legislation would spend approximately \$1.6 trillion over ten years—nearly double the President’s estimate.

Quote: “I will continued to seek common ground in the weeks ahead. If you come to me with a serious set of proposals, I will be there to listen. My door is always open.”

Fact: On May 13, House Republican leaders all wrote the President a letter reading in part: “We write to you today to express our sincere desire to work with you and find common ground on the issue of health care reform. . . . We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss areas for potential common ground on health care reform.” Nearly 4 months later, that meeting has yet to take place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. LOWEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THESE COLORS DON’T RUN

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, it was a clear, cool morning in America 8 years ago on September 11. The sun had risen, and people of the Nation went to work. I was driving my Jeep to the courthouse in Texas, where I served as a judge at the time.

KILT Radio, in Houston, interrupted a Willie Nelson song and reported that a plane had crashed into a tower at the World Trade Center. Then a second plane had hit the other tower in New York City. I, like many others on the road that day, pulled over to the side and listened intensely to the radio, and heard about a third plane crashing somewhere in Pennsylvania and yet a fourth plane deliberately hitting the Pentagon.

They were from every State in the United States, from 115 foreign countries and were of all races and nationalities. They were men and women and America’s young people. At the end of the day, 2,819 people did not return home to the people they loved; 343 were firefighters and paramedics; 23 were New York City police officers; 37 were Port Authority officers; 125 were working for the military at the Pentagon; and 266 others were passengers on airlines.

These were the victims of the attack on America on September 11, 2001. The enemy we faced and still face killed in the name of religion the innocence of this Nation.

America is great because of people like the passengers on Flight 93, who called their loved ones and said goodbye and then said, “Let’s roll.” They knew it was up to them to stop the terrorists on that plane. They were un-

armed and already had seen others murdered before their eyes, but they did what it took to stop the terrorists from doing whatever the terrorists had planned to do to our Nation. It didn’t matter whether they were flying into the Capitol or into the White House or exactly what they were going to do. The passengers of flight 93 were not going to let them do it no matter what it was. They saved innocent lives on the ground when they forced that plane down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

What makes America great is her people—ordinary Americans who strap on hundreds of pounds of gear and who run into a building that’s on fire to help people who are scared and injured and who don’t know where to go to be safe. They are paramedics and police officers and firemen and Port Authority officers who climbed hundreds of flights of steps, climbing up while everyone else was trying to get out of a building that was on fire.

They went into those darkened stairwells even after one building had collapsed, even after they knew that hundreds of their friends and family members and coworkers had just likely been killed when that first building came down. They kept on trying to save people whose lives they had been trained to save and to be responsible for. They took an oath and stood for that oath, and we would hope that we would all do the same. That’s what makes America the rare breed. Through the smoke, the fire, the dust, and the debris, these extraordinary people showed the world exactly what an American hero looks like.

What sets Americans apart is the bravery of the people who face challenges. We are continuing to be underestimated because no other country in the world can understand what an American feels when confronted with the type of evil that confronted us on September 11, 2001.

At the end of the day on September 11, 2001, I, like most Americans, was mesmerized in front of the TV, watching video of the attack on our Nation. I noticed that, when the planes hit the World Trade Center, thousands of people—good people—sought safety from the terror in the skies, but there was another group, a handful of people—that rare breed—who, when the planes hit those buildings, ran as hard as they could to confront that terror.

Who were they?

Well, they were the emergency medical technicians; they were firefighters; they were police officers; and they were just regular Americans. Their first inclination was not to run and hide. Their first inclination was to fight back, and that’s exactly what they did. They showed the pride that we feel in our country when we see the flag waving and say, These colors don’t run. We mean it.

So, Mr. Speaker, while it’s important to remember those who died that day 8 years ago, it’s just as important to remember those who got to live and who