

HALLOWEEN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the dark caverns of the Capitol where the trolls roam at night, the Halloween health care bill is being drafted by a secret few. The bill is being written in secret so no one, especially seniors, see it.

Mr. Speaker, what is being cooked up in the dungeons of this building? Is it just too scary for people to know about? Well, probably so. You see, it takes \$500 billion from Medicare and gives that money to the national Halloween health care bill. That's a frightening nightmare for people, especially seniors. And more importantly, it turns America's health over to the government.

Does anyone actually think the government can do it better? The Halloween health care bill will probably have the competence of FEMA, the efficiency of the post office, and the compassion of the IRS. The bill may be ready just in time for Halloween, and it will be a treat for the special interest groups, but it's a trick on the American people, especially the seniors. No wonder they're scared of it.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday the front page of The New York Times reported a survey of insurance brokers across America who have now predicted that the increase in insurance rates for small businesses in 2010 will be 15 to 23 percent. Last year it was 7 to 12 percent. So if your premium as a small business for a worker was \$4,500 in 2008, it will be \$5,500 in 2010. That is the Halloween surprise for small businesses in America today. There is no group in America that takes a harder hit than the self-employed and small group markets who have no mechanism to pool their risk that large employers and people in the Congress benefit from, as members of the Federal Employee Health Benefits plan.

This bill will create a national purchasing exchange so that the risk-takers in America will actually have the opportunity to provide and buy affordable health insurance for themselves and their employees. It is for America's capitalism and for America's entrepreneurs that the need to fix this market is the most critical, and that is why it is time to stop listening to the voices of "no" and move forward with real health care reform that will make America's economy grow and be viable.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. As a physician with over 30 years experience in treating patients, I came to Washington to participate in the great health care debate. Everyone in this Chamber agrees, we need health care reform. I will tell you, to be the first, I want to opt out of the public option. We've tried that in Tennessee, and it was a fiscal disaster. Costs tripled in less than 10 years, quality decreased, and access decreased.

What are we going to do? We're going to take \$400 billion to \$500 billion away from our senior citizens' health care while in 2011, we're going to add 3 million to 3.5 million baby boomers each year. That's 30 million more people. Guess what: They can do the math. Decreased access, decreased quality, and increased costs will be the result of this right here.

Americans should ask themselves one question at the end of the day: When this huge, 1,000-page, incomprehensible bill, which I've read every page of, comes to fruition, will the health care that I get and my family gets and that my doctor is able to provide for me, will it improve? The answer is "no."

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing here is, we are on the brink of passing health care reform in this country. Why are we doing that? We're doing this for my constituents and constituents across the country. We're doing it for the grandparents who I saw on Sunday, whose 12-year-old granddaughter, a life full of promise, is awaiting a transplant, but she might not be able to get that transplant. They have optimistic signs that she would be fine, but she might not get that because her health insurance is about to reach its cap.

And we're doing it for the elderly gentleman who I met. He had a part of his arm stripped away because he had melanoma as a young man. He never had another day of sickness regarding melanoma in his life, but he has dodged health care issues forever because he couldn't get insurance because of his preexisting condition. Now he's on Medicare, and he has that system that is working for him.

But that's not how it should be in this country. You shouldn't have to wait to be 65 in order to access affordable, quality health care. We're better than that, and we're going to give the American people better than that.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives

will soon be debating a health care reform proposal on the floor of this Chamber. The biggest question in this proposal will be whether or not we should have a government-controlled health insurance option called the public option that is targeted to cost about \$900 billion, half of which is on the backs of the taxpayers and small businesses of this country in the form of higher taxes, surcharges and fees, and the other half is money stripped out of the Medicare system; hundreds of billions of dollars stripped out of Medicare.

When the proponents tell you that if you like the insurance that you have, you can keep it, they're not referring to the 10 million seniors who are on the Medicare Advantage Program that will be phased out. Mr. Speaker, it's important that the proponents of the public option be honest with the seniors of this country in terms of what it will do to them.

HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the news from the Senate that they will include a public option in the health reform bill is encouraging, as we in the House prepare to vote on comprehensive reform. It is also precisely what the majority of Americans want. They want true competition in the health insurance market, and only the public option can do that. If the current insurance market had wanted to provide equitable and affordable health coverage for Americans, we wouldn't have 47 million uninsured people.

These are our constituents, our neighbors, even our family members. It's the young mother who called me to tell me that her daughter, born with spina bifida, was being denied a life-saving surgery. I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming the news from the Senate. Let's pass real health reform now.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the jury is out. The jury is looking right now, and they're wondering, What's going on with health care? We've heard all this evidence here today. Some say this; some say that. But the Democrats say, We're going to make it better, the government can do it better, and we're going to make it better. Our experience says, Wait a minute; the government doesn't do things very well.

So where's the evidence that it is going to do it better? Well, hold on. It's still behind closed doors. When we come out from underneath those closed doors, we'll give you 72 hours to try to