

a 10 percent unemployment rate? Is this the time to be doing something like that? I think not.

I think that these kinds of costs say that what we need to do is take the system we have now, selectively look at certain specific problems, and let's put solutions together that address those problems. But let's not try to re-engineer all of civilization and all of society, saying that we now have this fundamental right to health care and the government has got to provide it for everybody. It sounds really good, but when you see the cost, this has led to that kind of amusing phrase: If you think health care is expensive now, just wait until it is free.

This has been the effect. And these effects here are what we would predict and project if we make the mistake of following the Europeans, the Soviet Union before them, and Massachusetts and Tennessee, that have all played with these highly complicated government takeovers of health care. This is not the way that we think we should be going.

It is interesting that the polling data suggests that the American public, when you ask them what you want to do, they say, Yeah, we ought to make some reforms to health care. Everybody agrees to that. But they don't agree they want it all done with a government system. So that is pretty much where we are at this time.

I am joined by a colleague, a friend of mine from Louisiana, if you would like to make a comment or two. I think we are running close on time.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank my friend from Missouri for your leadership on this issue. This is an important issue.

As we are discussing health care, I think what is frustrating so many American people is that they are seeing what is happening here in Washington. Right now there is a back-room deal being cut where literally the liberals running Congress are rewriting this government takeover of health care, and the American people deserve and want to know what is actually in the bill.

I think what frustrates the people the most is they look at all this massive spending, \$1 trillion in new spending. How many people really think the \$1 trillion spending with this government takeover of health care is not going to add another dime to the deficit?

People clearly know not only is this going to be a massive spending bill, but it is a massive tax increase, over \$40 billion of new taxes, most of which is going to go on the backs of American families and small businesses. And then the cuts that senior citizens know are coming, \$400 billion in cuts to Medicare, including programs that people like, like Medicare Advantage.

This is not the way to do health care reform. We need to fix what is broken, but we don't need to break what is working in health care. Unfortunately,

their bill is nothing more than a government takeover with taxes and mandates that the American people don't want.

Mr. AKIN. I appreciate your perspective. It seemed to me almost that one of the dangerous things to do legislatively is to have an agenda and then just try to figure out some excuse to give you a chance to do what you wanted to do before you even started. And it almost seems as though, instead of taking a look at the system, selectively saying, Hey, let's take one of the hardest things, say preexisting conditions. That is a tough nut to crack. Let's just focus on that. Let's get everybody, Republicans and Democrats together, to take this one nut, define what we want to do, and see if we can't fix that one problem—instead, it was like, we don't need your opinion at all. Our staffers will write the bill. We will talk about it. We will cut some deals. We have to cut some deals, because we don't have enough votes to pass it. So we are going to have to do something for the insurance companies so that they don't have any liability in certain situations. We got to do a deal.

And you start putting the deals together so you get enough votes to try and pass it, and you cobble something together in the dark of night, bring it to the floor and hope nobody reads it too closely, because if you look at the details you are not going to like it.

Instead, maybe it is a little bit more deliberate, but you define what the problem is. You say, okay, let's put all of our resources on doing this the right way. Any idea is okay, and let's just have a good and open debate. The American public can be part of it and see what that is.

We didn't do that in this big bailout bill, and we didn't do it in this stimulus bill. That is what really made people mad. Then that huge cap-and-tax bill over here, to have a 1,000-page bill with 300 pages of amendments passed at 3 o'clock in the morning, not a copy on the floor and we are voting on this thing, the biggest tax increase in the history of the country the House just passed a number of months ago, that makes people upset. They say, wait a minute. You guys at least could read the bill.

No, we couldn't read the bill.

What do you mean, you couldn't read the bill? It gets them mad.

You say, well, there wasn't a copy on the floor.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3854, SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, from the Committee on Rules (during the Special Order of Mr. AKIN), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-317) on the resolution (H. Res. 875) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3854) to amend the Small Business Act and

the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve programs providing access to capital under such Acts, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2996, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, from the Committee on Rules (during the Special Order of Mr. AKIN), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-318) on the resolution (H. Res. 876) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE TRUE COST OF NOT HAVING HEALTH INSURANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserved some time tonight for myself, but what I am going to do is yield it to America. I am going to yield it to you. I am going to yield it to the people who sent us here.

As Abraham Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here." Sometimes I feel the same way. So I think it is time to give somebody else a chance.

What I am going to do tonight is give a chance to the part of America that isn't often heard from, the people that have lost their jobs, the people who have lost their homes, and tonight the people who have lost their lives; the people who lost their lives because they had no health coverage, they had no health insurance, and so they died.

There are 44,789 Americans who die every year for lack of health insurance. There are 122 who die every day. In the course of my speech tonight, there will be five more. I wish we would act quickly to end this national tragedy.

So I am going to yield my time tonight to the people who wrote to us and told us the stories of ones they loved and lost at this Web site, NamesOfTheDead.com. Hundreds and hundreds of people have written since last week when we established this site, and they have told us stories about the people who they loved and lost because they had no health insurance. So let's begin.

Stephen Martin wrote to us as follows concerning Thomas Martin of Santa Cruz, California. Steve wrote: