

District in Texas, which I represent, has one of the highest numbers of uninsured individuals in our country, where nearly 40 percent of the residents are uninsured.

Last week, the melded House version of the health care bill was reintroduced as H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. H.R. 3962 creates a national health care exchange in which individuals and small businesses can purchase health insurance plans for themselves and employees. Our goal is to build on the system of employer-based health care coverage that 60 percent of Americans currently enjoy and allow those who have employer-based insurance to keep that coverage.

If enacted, H.R. 3962 will provide insurance coverage to 230,000 currently uninsured residents in our district and improve the employer-based coverage for 217,000 residents. Under this legislation, 177,000 households would qualify for affordability credits to purchase health insurance.

In our district, 16,600 small businesses would be able to obtain health insurance for their employees, and 14,600 small businesses will qualify for tax credits to help them offset the cost of obtaining health care. That's why we need national health care reform.

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GIVING AMERICANS THE RIGHT KIND OF HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. JENKINS. As a woman in the sandwich generation, I've spent numerous hours making health care decisions for my two teenagers, as well as two aging parents who have both suffered from cancer and other medical emergencies. From monitoring vaccines, to paying hospital and prescription costs, to reviewing insurance coverage, I understand the concerns folks have with their health care system.

That is why I am glad Republicans have solutions: solutions to provide access to care, regardless of preexisting conditions; solutions to cover the uninsured; solutions for tort reform to reduce the cost of defensive medicine.

Democrats have other ideas. The Pelosi health care plan will force folks off their current health care coverage, lead to longer waiting lines, increase premiums, higher taxes, fewer options, and will further bankrupt our Nation.

Please, let's give Americans the right kind of health care reform.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF WILLARD V. OLIVER

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of Willard V. Oliver, one of the last sur-

viving Navajo Code Talkers. The Code Talkers saved the lives of countless Americans in World War II and the Korean War by using Dine to communicate sensitive military intelligence without risk of interception by the enemy. Mr. Oliver spent more than 2 years fighting his way across the South Pacific as one of those esteemed marines.

Willard Oliver passed away on October 14th after a life marked by heroic service to his people and to his country.

In speaking of his service, Mr. Oliver said, "I am proud to be a Code Talker, and I know we counted for something great."

Today, I am proud to honor him and all Navajo Code Talkers for their bravery and sacrifice on behalf of this country. His and their contributions to our great Nation must never be forgotten.

DOING HEALTH CARE REFORM THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, the American people want health care reform, but they want the right kind of reform. They want to know that we are not going to raise taxes on job creators when the economy is just coming out of a recession. They want to know that we are not going to change the health care that they have now. They want to know that Medicare will be there for them.

As a mother of three, I can remember nights when one of our children would have a cold and I would put my ear to their chest to hear the rattle or to hear if they were developing croup. And that is what we have been doing with this health care reform. The Republicans have been putting their ears to the chest of the American people to find out what they want. And what they want, they want reform the right way, not a \$1 trillion plan that will lead to uncertainty and that will have certain people lose their health care.

We need to do health care reform, but we need to do it the right way.

PAYING FOR VALUE IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this House has finally showed the courage to tackle one of the most important issues in our country, the rising cost of health care. I want to recognize that this piece of legislation takes a huge step forward in addressing the issue of paying for value in our health care system.

The current payment system rewards volume and quantity of care, rather than quality of care. We spend hun-

dreds of billions of dollars every year on procedures that do not improve patients' health. We need to change the incentive system. We need doctors and hospitals to work together to coordinate care.

In my district in southern Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic has created just such a culture, where doctors coordinate with each other and look for the best quality results. There are other institutions around the country doing the same thing. These organizations all do it a little differently, but the one thing they have in common is a culture of patient-centered care based on high quality and low cost.

These cultures can be replicated in every hospital in the country, and the way we get there is by changing the incentive system. I am very proud that the provisions in this bill to address value and geographic disparity in Medicaid are there. We have a chance to reform American health care and provide good-quality, high-outcome health care for all Americans.

COMMONSENSE IDEAS REGARDING HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. It seems like all we hear in Washington about health care today is "public option" and "government-run program," so I thought it was interesting in a recent questionnaire, 47 percent of my constituents most want Congress to focus on reducing costs. Only 10.5 percent are most concerned with the public option, and I would be willing to bet that these numbers are similar all over the country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should get back to the health care issue most important to Americans: reducing costs. Let's support commonsense changes, like medical malpractice reform and association health plans. We should also focus on eliminating the waste, fraud, and abuse that is so rampant in our medical system. With the money these reforms save, we will be able to expand coverage and be sure no one is denied health care coverage because of a preexisting condition or because they can't afford premiums.

These are simple, tested, commonsense ideas that don't take 1,999 pages to explain. Let's give the American people what they want, Mr. Speaker.

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, this House of Representatives is the people's voice, and we are about to deliver exactly what they have been asking for: reforms in our health care system, reforms that were asked of us by our people back home in our districts. Ideas, great ideas come from our people, including closing the doughnut hole in

Medicare part D, reforming medical malpractice to make sure it is affordable for every practitioner and their patients, and to negotiate finally for deeper discounts from prescription drug companies.

We are also going to eliminate the antitrust exemption that the Wall Street-run health insurance corporations have been benefiting from for several decades. We are also going to begin to look at purchasing health care policies across State lines.

This is what the people want: They want private doctors and private hospitals. They want to be in charge of their health care again.

We are going to put patients first in this House of Representatives.

HEALTH CARE AND SENIORS

(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, many seniors from my area of south Florida are concerned about the \$1 trillion Pelosi bill. The Pelosi bill is poised to hurt seniors by endangering their Medicare benefits. Seniors, after decades and decades of hard work and sacrifice, deserve nothing less than the best quality health care that we can provide. Any health care reform legislation must not endanger this solemn promise.

According to CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, the Pelosi plan will cut Medicare benefits by \$162 billion. The Pelosi bill will force seniors to pay up to 20 percent more for their Medicare prescription drug coverage. It will also inflict massive cuts on a popular program, Medicare Advantage, that will force many seniors out of their current coverage. So not only do we take away benefits from our seniors, but we will make them pay more for what little they are left with.

This is not what seniors deserve. Seniors deserve to have their Medicare benefits protected. Whatever shape health care reform takes, this Chamber must never forget our pledge to our seniors.

WELCOMING AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TO WASHINGTON

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the many American Indians and Alaska Natives who are here in Washington to address the needs of Indian Country. For the first time, leaders from the 564 federally recognized tribes will interact directly with the President and Cabinet members in the first annual White House Tribal Nations Conference.

President Obama, the administration officials, and many Members of Con-

gress are engaging tribal leaders in an unprecedented conversation to hear firsthand about the needs and opportunities facing Indian communities and families.

Tribal leaders are also here to commemorate the historic opening today of the Embassy of Tribal Nations' permanent home in our Nation's Capital for their family of sovereign tribal governments.

Migwetch—thank you—as we would say in Minnesota. Thank you to all the tribes who are here to participate and work on Indian issues together.

DOING HEALTH CARE REFORM THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, when I am at home in the district, I am not getting questions about health care. I am getting questions about jobs. People are saying, what are you doing to help create jobs?

Unemployment nationally is at a 26-year high. In my district, it is between 11 and 15 percent, and small business people say to me all the time, new taxes on businesses that can't afford health coverage is not going to help. We all know that leads to fewer jobs and lower wages for workers.

Health care reform is important, but the country can't afford it under the proposed bill. Half of the tax dollars collected by the health care bill's new surtax are from small business. It is terrible for innovation and kills ingenuity, which made America great.

It is the American people that keep this country growing, and they want health reform done the right way, that lowers cost and is affordable.

PROTECTING INNOCENT AMERICANS FROM EXECUTION

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 3986, the Effective Death Penalty Appeals Act, to protect innocent Americans from execution. Under current law, a death row inmate can be stranded in a procedural no-man's land condemned to die, even if there is compelling new evidence of innocence.

Justice Stevens recently wrote that the law as it stands is arguably unconstitutional. It is also wrong. My bill would empower Federal courts to entertain and grant habeas corpus petitions for death row inmates who present new evidence that demonstrates probable innocence.

This bill will help us discern the innocent from the guilty when the stakes are highest. I look forward to broad support for this bill.

I will also say that health care, this new proposal, H.R. 3986, is fabulous reform to this problem.

PROPOSED HEALTH CARE REFORM WILL HURT WOMEN

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, for many women and their families, higher health care costs means the difference between receiving care or going without it. Unfortunately, the Pelosi health care bill raises taxes on health care and empowers the Federal Government and bureaucrats to decide what kind of health care families and women will have versus empowering people to make their own personal decisions. It also undermines a woman's ability to make the best decisions for her family.

According to a report, studies have shown that more than 52 percent of women have foregone necessary care because of the cost. They have foregone care from filling prescription drugs, skipping a medical test, or even failing to see a doctor when they needed medical help.

We know when the Federal Government takes over care, whether it is a bureaucratic system or a socialized system, that it also leads to rationing of care. This bill increases taxes while also causing higher insurance premiums and will hurt women and children and their families. But House Republicans support reasonable health care reform that lowers costs and will ensure access to care for all Americans.

NO LONGER BEING FOOLED BY THE PARTY OF NO

(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, one of the scariest themes of Halloween has been the continuation of myths about our health care legislation that is being made by opponents of reform. These TEA-bagger myths have been debunked time and time again, yet some in this Congress continue to perpetuate them. Why? Because they have no alternative plan of their own.

If they had a comprehensive plan that would actually address our Nation's health care crisis, it would have been put forward, or maybe they would have enacted it during the years that they ran Congress and the White House. But when you don't have a plan, you have nothing else to talk about.

We all know we cannot continue the status quo: Americans with health insurance today, never knowing if it will be there when they need it; millions of Americans today without any coverage; all the while, costs keep climbing and insurance companies keep getting richer.

So what do some folks do? They distort our plan and use scare tactics and try to fool the American people. But the American people support our plan, which ensures that we all have access