

of care with better health outcomes for all Americans; and the containment of rapidly rising costs of health care.

The status quo is unaffordable and unsustainable. Passing health care reform benefits all of us: families, seniors, businesses, and the Nation. I look forward to voting for this historic legislation and meeting the goals of health care reform for all Americans. Now is the time to act.

□ 1315

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on September 12, taxpayers sent an unequivocal message to lawmakers that smaller government, limited regulation, responsible spending, and keeping government out of people's lives are principles that too many in Washington need to be reminded of.

Hundreds of Texans took to the streets of Washington, D.C., to protest Big Government and the devastating policies the Obama administration and this Congress are pursuing. Their voices were heard and we had better not forget what they say.

Now we need everyone's voice more than ever as we are asked to pass a \$1.2 trillion government takeover of our health care system. Through town hall meetings and the thousands of e-mails and letters we receive each week, my constituents have been clear: They don't like this bill.

It's now Congress's responsibility to listen to our districts and respond, representing the constituents who sent us here. They're speaking loud and clear—and they expect a response.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, for the past 6 months I have talked with my constituents in southern Nevada about the need for health care reform that lowers cost, improves access, increases choice, and strengthens Medicare. I have solicited input from my constituents by sending them health care surveys, encouraging them to share their health care stories, and holding Congress on the Corner.

From roundtable discussions with doctors, providers, and small business owners, to town halls, I have listened to the concerns Nevadans have about our current health care system as well as the proposed reforms. One thing is clear: The status quo just is unacceptable.

The legislation introduced in the House last week requires a comprehensive examination, and I will continue to carefully review all aspects of the bill. But I'm pleased that the legisla-

tion includes important provisions that will help Nevada's seniors, young adults, women, and small businesses.

From ending discrimination based on preexisting conditions to strengthening Medicare by reducing waste and closing the doughnut hole, there are a number of very positive aspects of this bill which I strongly support. It's time to give them a serious look.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the American people have said that the number one thing they're concerned about with regard to health care is the cost of health care. The Speaker's 1,990-page government takeover of health care raises the cost of insurance for American families and it will add to our already exploding debt.

The cost of the Speaker's bill is now at \$1.3 trillion and counting. It's a debt that will be paid for by our kids and our grandkids. And, to make matters worse, it will increase taxes, impose job-killing mandates, and cut seniors' Medicare benefits.

There's a better way. Republicans have outlined a plan to lower cost and expand access at a price our Nation can afford. This includes letting families buy health insurance across State lines; allowing small businesses to pool and offer health insurance to their employees at much lower cost, just like big businesses and unions can today; giving States the tools to create innovative reforms that lower costs; and ending junk lawsuits that contribute to higher health care costs.

Given all that's at stake, the American people deserve to see the Republicans' smart, fiscally responsible plans debated here on the House floor side-by-side with the Speaker's 1,990-page bill.

I hope we will see that debate and vote as soon as possible.

HEALTH REFORM AND THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I can't stand here today and tell you that this legislation will solve every health care problem we face as a Nation, but I can tell you this. There's 460,000 Nevadans that have no health insurance at all. In my district alone, this bill will provide coverage for 163,000 of my fellow Nevadans.

It's not just the uninsured that will benefit. In Las Vegas, more than 200,000 households will receive credits to make insurance more affordable and over 16,000 small businesses will be provided with a tax credit to make it easier for them to provide coverage to their employees.

The bill improves coverage for seniors by closing the doughnut hole, eliminating copays for preventive services, and extending the solvency of the Medicare program for another 5 years. It eliminates preexisting conditions as a reason to deny coverage. It lifts the lifetime limits. I have 10-year-old children who are juvenile diabetics in my office that have already exceeded their lifetime caps. This bill eliminates that.

The current health care system is unsustainable.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PENCE. The American people want health care reform that lowers the cost of health insurance rather than increasing the cost of government, but it looks like that's exactly what they're getting in the Pelosi health care bill.

Here are the numbers: 1,990 pages; \$1.2 trillion in the Pelosi plan in new Federal spending over the next 10 years; \$729.5 billion in new tax increases. It's just extraordinary.

Within the confines of the bill, 43 entitlement programs are created or expanded; 111 additional offices, bureaus, commissions, programs, and bureaucracies; and this legislation uses the mandatory legal language—the word “shall”—3,425 times. And this isn't a government takeover of health care? Give me a break.

The Pelosi health care plan is a freight train of big government, higher taxes, and mandates—and it must be opposed. The American people deserve a better plan.

You can go to healthcare.gov and start getting the details of a plan that will lower the cost of health insurance instead of growing the size of government.

WHERE IS THE REPUBLICAN HEALTH REFORM BILL?

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting to go to that Web site and find what is the so-called Republican beginning of a proposal, because 139 days ago the Republican leadership promised to introduce their own health reform bill and yet we are still waiting.

Since the mysterious Republican plan hasn't been introduced, the American people can't really see what's in it. It's all being written behind closed doors. What little we do know of what they are planning should bring a smile to the faces of insurance company CEOs.

Their leader, Mr. BOEHNER, admitted the other day that their collection of bills does not end discrimination based