

of which will be paid by middle class families, including penalties on people who don't buy insurance, penalties on employers who can't afford to cover their workers, and new taxes on Federal spending accounts, health savings accounts, insurance premiums, and medical devices.

The bill also includes about \$500 billion in Medicare cuts that will reduce seniors' access to doctors and to hospitals, and it will force millions out of their Medicare Advantage plans.

House Republicans support taking the first steps towards comprehensive reform that is focused on driving down costs for health care for all Americans.

EXPRESSING PRO-LIFE CONCERNS WITH PELOSI HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a strong believer in the dignity of all human life, I have worked to defend the rights of the unborn, but the Pelosi health care bill does not protect those rights.

The newly created public option will be authorized to fund elective abortions. The Pelosi health care bill does not include the pro-life language, which was offered and rejected in committee, to prohibit the Federal funding of abortion and of plans that include abortion. As the bill is written, Federal funds will pay for elective abortions.

This goes against a longstanding rule that government insurance programs, such as Medicaid or the Federal Employees Health Benefits, cannot cover elective abortions. Health care reform should be about improving the quality of life, not about taking it.

The National Right to Life Committee has expressed its concerns with this legislation as have thousands of residents from the Third District of Arkansas.

The respect for life needs to be a core value of our Nation, and it needs to be reflected in our national policies and health care reform.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the government takeover of our Nation's health care system. It would have a disastrous impact on women and their families. As moms, doctors, nurses, caregivers, and taxpayers, women play a critical role in the health care debate. Eighty-five percent of women are the primary health care decisionmakers in the home.

Women overwhelmingly support health care reform, but they don't want reform that will increase their health care costs, that will ration care or that will undermine their ability to make the best health care decisions for

their families. Speaker PELOSI's bill empowers government bureaucrats; it increases taxes, and it raises health insurance premiums while using Federal dollars to fund abortions.

Mr. Speaker, I support reform solutions that let women, not your government, take over, continue to decide what is best for their families.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, last evening, I did a telephone town hall meeting, and I talked to thousands of my constituents. We had a poll. We asked the question:

Do you support the health care reform bill that was just introduced by Speaker NANCY PELOSI?

The results were overwhelming: 76 percent of the people responded "no." The reason is that what people are concerned about are the costs in health care today, and the people at home understand the fact that this is only going to raise their costs. The government-run plan, the takeover plan of our health insurance, actually is going to cost more than what private insurance costs today.

This isn't what was advertised. This isn't what people want. They don't want the government coming in, taking over their health insurance, changing their policies for them without their permission, cutting benefits to people on Medicare—people who need those benefits desperately. They're going to take those benefits away. This is not what the people wanted, and we're going to vote this bill down.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be here today after months and months of discussing the health care reform proposals with the people of America and particularly with those in my district in south Florida.

It's great to be here to talk about how, finally, we're going to deal with preexisting conditions and about how, finally, people who have mental illnesses and chronic illnesses won't have arbitrary caps on their insurance and about how, finally, small businesses, which are the heart of our total economic system, will be able to pool their purchasing power to bring their costs down.

Medicare is one of the most important programs in our country. It's about fixing the doughnut hole to reduce the costs for prescription drugs, which is the lifeblood of many Americans within our senior citizen population. This is what the American people want. I am very proud that we are

fixing the Medicare system and that we are making it last even longer than has been alleged by those on the other side.

It's about time we do something right to fix health care. This is the proposal.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we need to strengthen health care. We need to improve health care outcomes for all Americans, and we need to reduce costs, especially for families and small businesses, while protecting vulnerable persons. The question is how.

The current bill is very risky. It is nearly 2,000 pages and will cost \$1.3 trillion. It shifts the cost of what we have been doing to more government-run health care without reducing the cost drivers that have gotten us into the very circumstances we find ourselves in. It reduces the funding for important Medicare programs. It increases burdens on small businesses. It passes on costs to States, and it will reduce health care liberties for millions of Americans, including forced payment for abortion services.

The solutions: We should shift our health care culture to the focus of prevention and wellness. We should allow for commonsense reforms like the portability of insurance, the buying of insurance across State lines, the creating of new insurance risk pool models for small businesses and families, of appropriately addressing preexisting conditions, and of expanding opportunities for health savings accounts.

No one disputes the diagnosis. Our health care system must be strengthened. Let's get it right, Mr. Speaker.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I support changing and improving our health care delivery system, and there is a lot that can be done. Unfortunately, H.R. 3962, the Speaker's health care bill, does too much and too much wrong.

This nearly 2,000-page bill will create 111 new government boards, bureaucracies, and commissions. Additionally, the bill uses the word "shall," which is the government's way of saying people must do something, a whopping 3,425 times.

Instead of turning our entire health care system on its head and increasing government, we need to implement reforms that eliminate unnecessary costs in our system. Further, history shows that a government-run health care plan will be way more expensive than what is estimated today. The experience with health care entitlement programs is that they end up costing so