

the doctors, hospitals, home health care, hospice care, these folks. They reduce payments so that the providers have no choice but to reduce the amount of their care.

They have to see more patients, there are not as many of them, and they are getting paid less. So naturally they cannot provide the same level and quality of care. That is how rationing begins. Ask people in Canada, ask people in Great Britain how long it takes to get in to see the doctor. Eventually even that does not cut it. So they set a budget and say: We cannot afford to pay any more than that.

You better hope you get sick early in the year. That is, unfortunately, what you can see to an extent in our veterans care but even more in our care for our Native Americans. I did not make this up. Others have said in the Indian Health Care Service, get sick early in the year because they run out of money if you get sick late in the year.

Our first obligation ought to be to ensure our Native American population receives the care we have promised them. I personally have gone throughout Indian reservations in Arizona. We have more than any other State. I made a tour of the Navajo reservations, including a lot of the health care clinics and facilities that try to take care of folks under the Indian Health Service. None has enough money to do what they are supposed to. They are understaffed. The people who are there are wonderful, dedicated health care providers. They are doing their best. But you ask any of the Native Americans whether they believe they are getting the care they are supposed to get under the program, and the answer is uniformly no. They have to wait forever. The care is not there when they need it.

This is the perfect example of rationing of care, what happens when you have a government-run system. That is what I fear most of all will result from this because we have taken on much more than we can afford.

The end result of that inevitably is the reduction in the amount of care that is provided and the quality of care that is provided.

I urge my colleagues to think very carefully about what we are getting our constituents into. We can start to turn this back by supporting the Crapo motion which at least says that folks who are middle-class families, who the President promised would not see a tax increase, will not see a tax increase under the legislation. That is what the Crapo motion would provide, and I certainly hope my colleagues support it.

RECESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, if there are no other Senators seeking recognition at this time, I ask that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:45 p.m., recessed until 3:16 p.m. and reassem-

bled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CRAPO).

SERVICE MEMBERS HOME OWNERSHIP TAX ACT OF 2009—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to strongly support and urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to support the upcoming Dorgan reimportation amendment which we will be voting on later today and, just as important, to oppose the Lautenberg amendment which, as everyone knows, is a poison pill to reimportation and is simply and surely a way to absolutely kill for all practical purposes the real Dorgan reimportation language.

To me, this is a crystal-clear choice, and it is the sort of choice the American people are really interested in and really watching. It is a choice between doing something that can make a difference in people's lives, something that can help people, that can solve a real problem in health care by doing something in a focused way or we can choose to keep to the big political deal that was made inside the beltway, inside the White House with the pharmaceutical industry. That is the choice. This is really a choice between voting for the American people or voting for politics as usual in Washington. That is what it all comes down to.

On the positive side, reimportation is a very real and very effective solution to a real problem. The problem is obvious. The problem is sky-high prescription drug prices—the highest in the world—that we as Americans pay. These same drugs are sold around the world, and in many different cases—in virtually every case—we pay the highest prices in the world right here in the United States even though we have the biggest marketplace for prescription drugs. That is the system we are trying to break up. So I want and supporters of this amendment want a true free market in prescription drugs, a world price that will lower the U.S. price and dramatically help U.S. consumers.

It is not just supporters of this amendment and this concept who are making these arguments; it is unbiased sources such as the Congressional Budget Office and others. The Congressional Budget Office says this amendment—this reimportation concept will save the Federal Government money, significant money, some \$18 billion or more. And besides the savings to the Federal Government, the savings to the U.S. consumer are much greater—\$80 billion or more.

So that is the positive choice—doing something real about a real problem. That is what the American people want us to do. They want us to focus on the real problems that exist in health care and attack those real problems in a focused way.

The other alternative is to keep the political deal, to vote yes for politics as usual in Washington. Tragically,

that is what is represented by the political deal that was struck on this global health care bill between the White House and the White House's allies here in the Senate and the big pharmaceutical industry. It has been widely reported—it is no secret—that there was a deal between these bodies. The pharmaceutical industry agreed to support the President's initiative, putting as much as \$150 million of TV advertising cash behind that support, if the White House would completely change its position on reimportation and other key points.

The record is clear: When President Obama served right here with us in the U.S. Senate, he was completely for reimportation. As a Presidential candidate, he campaigned vigorously for reimportation. Rahm Emanuel, the White House Chief of Staff, when he served in the U.S. House, was strongly for reimportation. But now, all that is off because Washington politics as usual has stepped in the way. They have reversed their position through this deal with PhRMA. Tragically, that has crept into the Senate Chamber as well. Key Senators on the Democratic side—MAX BAUCUS and JAY ROCKEFELLER and others—have reversed their position and apparently now are urging "no" votes for a policy they have long supported.

Well, we will know in a few hours who will be the winner—the American people, being given lower prescription prices, or PhRMA and politics as usual in Washington. Make no mistake about it, that is the choice. It couldn't be laid out in a clearer way. And to choose for the American people, to make real progress for lower prescription drug prices, we need to do not one but two things: first, to pass the Dorgan amendment, and second, and just as important, to defeat the Lautenberg amendment side-by-side, which would clearly, by all acknowledged sources, be a poison pill to reimportation—an easy way for the administration to ensure reimportation never happens.

I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to vote for lower prescription drug prices, to vote for the American people, and certainly to vote against Washington politics as usual, which the American people are so completely disgusted and fed up with. I urge that vote. Americans all around the country, in all our home States, will remember it and will thank us for it because we will actually be providing a real solution to a real problem and bringing them significantly lower prescription drug prices.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.