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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, repealing the historic health care legislation that we passed last year would pull the rug out from under millions of Americans and add billions to the deficit.

We can and should talk about CBO scores, tax credits, and unemployment numbers. But what this health care reform is really about is improving the lives of millions of Americans. It's about children with preexisting conditions who can no longer be denied coverage. It's about senior citizens who can now afford to get screened for diabetes or get a mammogram. It's about working families that no longer have to worry that their insurance will be canceled if they get sick.

It's about people like GERALYN from South Portland, Maine, who wrote to me. She said, "My son turned 19 last May and promptly lost his insurance coverage. He has high blood pressure and had to go to the doctor a number of times to get his medication right. It was a struggle to keep up with the bills. He works two part-time jobs, and that doesn't get him health care. As of December 1, I was able to get him back on my insurance and it is a relief knowing he is covered. If this was repealed, it would hurt my son's health."

That's why we need to stick with the health care plan and vote "no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM REPEAL

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

Mr. FINCHER. When the Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act last year, it was promised that Americans would have better access, more affordable and higher quality care. Instead, ObamaCare created what we all despise and know won't work—more government bureaucracy at taxpayer expense: \$500 billion in new taxes, \$500 billion in Medicare cuts, more government bureaucracy, thousands of new IRS employees.

What we need for the American people is transparency and accountability. Do I need to remind our colleagues that the approval rating of Congress is at an all-time low because we're not listening to the folks?

We were sent here in November to do a job, and that's exactly what we're going to do. We're going to keep our promises we made to the American people, and we're going to hold true to that.

So I stand in favor of repealing the health care bill. We have to create jobs and get our economy moving. If we allow this health care bill to stay in effect, that will not do.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The gentleman that spoke before me talked about transparency and accountability. Let's talk about the insurance industry pre-reform. They could cancel your policy if you got sick even though you had been paying the premiums for years. They could refuse to sell you a policy if they don't like the way you look or if you've had a minor health problem. We changed that. People can now get health insurance and keep their health insurance if they've been paying their premiums.

But now they want to go back to those bad old days, and they talk about transparency and accountability. How accountable is an industry that is exempt from antitrust law? Health insurance companies can and do collude to exclude people from coverage, to red line, to drive up premiums, to not sell in one State, not compete with one another. There's no free market and competition and transparency and accountability.

If the Republicans really wanted to do something today, and if they want to showboat with this repeal, they could at least replace it by making the industry comply with the same competitive rules as every other industry in America except for professional sports, and that is they would be subject to antitrust law restrictions.

HEALTH CARE REFORM REPEAL

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we all want to increase access to quality, affordable health care. We know that in this troubled economy, Americans are concerned about making ends meet and ensuring that they are covered in the event of a health care emergency.

However, the misguided health care effort that was pushed through this House during the last Congress is doing much more harm than good. The hard-working families and seniors and small businesses in my district cannot afford this health care overhaul that is costing jobs, increasing red tape, spending trillions of dollars, and actually increasing health care costs.

This week the House is listening to and acting upon the message that Americans sent to Washington this past fall. We will replace the overreaching health care law with common-sense solutions that will lower costs and increase access to insurance while keeping Americans in charge of their own health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, when the Health Care Reform Act was passed, it had in it section 1560. That section recognizes the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act. Why? Because we have the lowest premiums in the Nation and we have one of the best coverages afforded for that. And why is that? Because we recognized very early on that you need to do a series of things. One, you need to share risks; two, you need to cover everyone; and, three, you need to make things available. Health care has to be available. And for that, we have a great system, a system that still needs to be tweaked, a system that will benefit from the Affordable Health Care Act.

What does that tell you? It took us 36 years to get it right, and we're still working on it. And my colleagues across the aisle want to repeal something that hasn't been around for a year.

Now, the American people do not want that. They want us to learn from when things are done right. Look at what we've done—36 years and we're getting it right. But it's still not perfect. We've got to keep listening, and we've got to hear the people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I had the privilege of hearing from a Rhode Islander, Alex Lataille, who spoke at the one and only hearing Congress had to discuss the negative effects of repealing the new health care law.

Alex graduated last May with two bachelor's degrees, and while looking for a job after graduation, he is able to afford health insurance because he can stay on his parents' policy. Repealing this law means Alex and millions of Americans will lose their coverage.

I also recently spoke to Beth, a woman from Woonsocket, Rhode Island. She told me she's an insurance agent. She sells insurance every single day, but she's denied access to coverage because of her preexisting condition. Repealing this law would mean she would again be denied access to health care. She said, Please do not let them take my health care.

I was sent here to find practical solutions to solve the problems facing Rhode Island families. Let's work to improve this law, not repeal it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last year and a half as we worked to pass incredibly important protections to Americans, opponents of health care reform continued to try to scare people about what we

were doing. And now with this vote today, where the Republican plan is basically to remove all of those protections that we have offered the American public, there are a lot of people out there who will think that after the vote today that these protections are going to go away.

So I want to assure the constituents in my district, the Third District of Kentucky—almost 300,000 of them with preexisting conditions—your protection against discrimination will not go away. Those 15,700 small businesses in my district that will now get benefits to provide coverage for their employees, don't worry about that vote. Those protections are not going to go away.

For those seniors in the doughnut hole, almost 10,000 in my district who have had their prescription drug costs lowered because of what we did last year, this vote today will not take them away.

And as for those 24,000 individuals in my district who will now have access to insurance for the first time, the vote today will not take them away.

□ 1030

OPPOSING REPEAL OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to repealing health care reform. The reason is simple: It does not create jobs, it does not protect the middle class, and it balloons the deficit.

Since March of 2010, the economy has created a total of 1.1 million new private-sector jobs. Over 200,000 of these jobs were in the health care sector alone. Health care reform is helping to create jobs, not take them away. Health care reform helps the middle class. In my district alone, 439,000 individuals who currently have health insurance now have protections and benefits that they did not have before the reform. 113,000 of my senior constituents are able to access preventive care and screenings for free because of reform. Tax credits are available for up to 14,500 small businesses in the capital region of New York.

These are real changes that benefit real people. Repeal would eliminate all of them, thoughtlessly and with great harm to the middle class of my district. Finally, repeal would increase the debt by trillions of dollars. In fact, 20 years from now, repeal would cost us more than \$1.2 trillion, ballooning the deficit and severely threatening our Nation's debt.

BUSTING MYTHS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much. I look forward to working with you.

It's time to bust a number of myths. It's time to really tell the Americans the truth. As we begin another series of 5-hour debates on repealing a life-saving initiative, it's really time to tell the truth. Maybe it's time to tell the truth about this senior citizen, who had pneumonia and didn't know she had it. But if she had not had "a government-run health system," Medicare, she wouldn't be laying up in a sophisticated medical facility, providing her with the opportunity to live. Any of you know about pneumonia—walking pneumonia can kill you. It killed my grandfather, who did not have access to this quality health care because he did not have Medicare.

It's time to bust the myths. It's time to tell our physicians that Democrats worked hard to build up your reimbursement. We were the leaders on it. This has nothing to do with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, because as this bill grows with research dollars, we also have the opportunity, with the President, to work on reimbursement. This bill is a bill to save lives. And those in Texas know it, Mr. Speaker, because the Texas insurance agency said it is a good bill.

FREEDOMS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to again debate the repeal of the health care legislation passed last year. Democrats provided in that bill various freedoms: Freedom from discrimination for preexisting conditions, freedom from cancellation because you get sick, freedom to move from job to job without losing your insurance. Those freedoms are part of the legislation of America today. They are all based on the equal protection laws of the 14th Amendment.

The Republicans, in a very radical and extreme move, want to have Americans forfeit these freedoms. We can't have that done. This is about saving money, \$230 billion. Republicans talk about saving money. But they are prepared to repeal an act that saves America \$230 billion.

We want to make sure that we have manufacturing in this country, we make it in America. We're not competitive with the rest of the world. We can't allow this repeal to take place. I urge a "no" vote.

OPPOSING REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this counterproductive effort to repeal the Affordable Care

Act. Instead, we ought to focus on how we can move forward together, Democrats and Republicans, to address the very serious challenge of rising health care costs. Among developed nations, the United States spends twice as much as a share of GDP on health care; yet we rank near the bottom in health outcomes.

Insurance premiums more than doubled in the last decade. Absent reform, they are on pace to double again by 2020. These costs are unsustainable for Delaware families and for the Federal budget. There can't be serious conversation about deficit reduction without talking about health care cost containment. Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP alone consume one-quarter of the Federal budget. The Affordable Care Act will curb health care cost growth, but there is a lot more that needs to be done.

I came to Congress to make the tough, thoughtful decisions necessary to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it. And I look forward to working with my colleagues to do just that.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 39

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Holden, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Baca, Mr. Cardoza, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Cuellar, Mr. Costa, Mr. Walz of Minnesota, Mr. Schrader, Mr. Kissell, Mr. Owens, Ms. Pingree of Maine, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Welch, Ms. Fudge, Mr. Sablan, Ms. Sewell, and Mr. McGovern.

(2) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Reyes, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Cooper, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Loeb sack, Ms. Giffords, Ms. Tsongas, Ms. Pingree of Maine, Mr. Kissell, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Owens, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Critz, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Castor of Florida, Ms. Sutton, and Ms. Hanabusa.

(3) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Payne, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Hinojosa, Mrs. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Kucinich, Mr. Wu, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Bishop of New York, Mr. Loeb sack, and Ms. Hirono.

(4) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Ms. Waters, Mrs. Maloney, Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Watt, Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Clay, Mrs. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Baca, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Ms.