

employees. I offered a pension benefit to my employees. Both of these plans were as a result of a 1974 Federal law called ERISA, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, that allows employers to offer health plans to their employees and pension plans to their employees across State lines.

Over the years, employers now provide health insurance to their employees, to the total of about 132 million Americans that today get their health insurance through their employer.

But in the Democrat health care plan, I noticed this morning in an article from *The Wall Street Journal* there's a provision in there that, in their bill, after 5 years all employer plans will have to be approved by the Department of Labor and the new Health Choices Commissioner, who will set Federal standards for what is an acceptable health plan.

Now, these employers are providing these plans to their employees. They're trying to provide a benefit their employees want and need. And now the Federal Government is going to decide what your health plan is going to look like.

I would suggest that a lot of employers in America are going to look at this and decide, You know, this really isn't worth it. Under their plan, if you're an employer and you don't provide health insurance, you have to pay an 8 percent payroll tax to the Federal Government. Eight percent.

Now, most employers probably pay more than this for their health care. And so, as a result, I would think a lot of employers are just going to pay the 8 percent tax and allow their employees to be shoved into the government-run plan.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, some 23 million Americans would lose their benefits from their employers and be forced into government health care. According to the Lewin Group, 114 million Americans would be forced into the government plan.

This is not what the American people want. And if you put an 8 percent tax on payroll, guess what? Employers are going to hire less people. And most of my constituents are asking, Where are the jobs? And if you tax employment through this health care plan or you tax employment under this crazy national energy tax, you're going to create less jobs in America.

At a time when we need jobs and we need our economy going again, we don't need to be taxing employers and taxing employment, because we're going to get a lot less of it.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act. This com-

monsense measure will help bring fiscal responsibility back to Washington. With the national debt at almost \$11.6 trillion, Congress needs to start showing some discipline.

I launched my "Do More With Less" campaign to cut inefficient spending and reduce the debt. I have been proud to support billions of cuts in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills. And I have called on the Treasury Secretary to use returned bailout funds to pay back what we owe.

I am also pleased to be an original cosponsor of the PAYGO bill. By requiring that Congress offset spending dollar-for-dollar, this legislation will ensure that Washington makes the tough choices it takes to get our country back on track.

PAYGO helped produce the budget surpluses of the late 1990s, and it will help us restore the balance now.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support passage of this bill.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, at a time when millions of Americans are losing their jobs and families are desperately seeking employment, this Congress and this administration have made job creation a secondary concern. As a result, they have squandered a golden opportunity to put people back to work.

Frankly, the American people have just had enough. They have had enough of a stimulus bill that has wasted hundreds of billions of dollars and not staved off job loss. They have had enough of the national energy tax that will impose extraordinary job-killing taxes on the people of this country. And now, Mr. Speaker, they have had enough of talk of a health care bill that not only will fail to deliver the access and quality that we need, but it will cripple small businesses by imposing an 8 percent payroll tax on them.

Mr. Speaker, the question is: Where are the jobs? Congress and this administration have been asleep for too long—and we can do better.

SUPPORT THE HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. BACA. America's health system is not working. We cannot stay with the failing system that we now have. What good is an insurance card if there's no real access to services? What good is the current system if I have a senior under Medicare, like in my district, scared that their doctors won't see them any more?

We also need a health care reform that gets past the politics and past the rhetoric that every single person is covered.

I stand here to advocate for those without a voice, for those who cannot afford to travel to Washington, D.C. I stand here to advocate for a viable public option to compete with the private sector.

I stand here to advocate for American families. And I stand for the American families who are busting at the seams, trying to make ends meet, and hoping one day they won't get sick.

I urge my colleagues to advocate for all American families and pass health care reform that is needed for all American people in this country.

WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER

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

Mr. PENCE. In the midst of the worst recession in 25 years, after months of runaway Federal spending, bailout, record deficits, and a national energy tax, now comes a government takeover of health care paid for with nearly a trillion dollars in tax increases.

Before we move on to the next big government scheme of this administration, the American people are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

Make no mistake about it, the President's health care bill would do nothing to lower the cost of health care and would be a disaster for the American economy. If ObamaCare passes—according to the experts—if ObamaCare passes, you will probably lose your health insurance and you might just lose your job.

The American people know we can do better. We must do better. For the sake of our economy and reform, I implore my Democratic colleagues, say "no" to a government takeover of health care and higher taxes and say "yes" to a bipartisan majority in this Congress that is committed to fiscal discipline, reform, and putting Americans back to work.

REINSTITUTE PAYGO

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

Mr. CHILDERS. It's a privilege to come to this House floor today to express my steadfast support for pay-as-you-go legislation that is scheduled to be introduced this week. As a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, I believe reinstating PAYGO is vital to restoring confidence with the American people that Washington and this Congress are indeed serious about reducing the Federal deficit and not continuing the reckless spending policies so often associated with Washington over the past decade.

The people of north Mississippi and the American people all understand that at some point the bills have to be paid. Going from a \$5 trillion debt at the end of the Clinton administration

to a now over \$11 trillion debt, it is not hard to imagine the daily frustrations I see every weekend at home on the faces of individuals and families struggling in this economic downturn.

It is time for Congress to start operating just as the families in my district do and adopt statutory PAYGO as the law of the land.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this landmark legislation.

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT RAISING TAXES AND COSTING JOBS

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. We can have health care reform without raising taxes and costing jobs. The health care version currently being debated in Congress is recognized and called by many as a prescription for disaster—disaster as it relates to ensuring quality and affordable health care and disaster as to the impact it would have on our economy.

Governors across the country, Republicans and Democrats, are fearful it would only add additional costs to an already unsustainable system. The Mayo Clinic says this bill misses the opportunity to help create higher quality, more affordable health care for patients. In fact, they say it will do the opposite.

CBO last week stated that it would worsen our economic outlook by increasing deficits and driving our Nation more deeply into debt.

There are many reasons to be skeptical of this plan: the job loss, the additional debt, the government intrusion between you and your doctor and your health care decisions.

Some continue to say, It's better than nothing. When you are sick or your son or daughter is sick, you don't want the doctor just to do something. You want them to do the right thing.

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HEALTH CARE SCARE TACTICS WILL NOT WORK

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago Frank Luntz wrote the speeches for Newt Gingrich to come out here and scare the American people about the Clinton health reform. They succeeded 15 years ago. What have the people gotten since then? Nothing. The number of people have gone up and up and up and up who do not have health insurance. So here they are all arrayed out here again today one at a time. Folks, they are here to scare you again. Mr. Speaker, the people are smarter this time.

In the election of 2008, they elected a President who said he would bring

health care reform to this country, and they gave the Democrats an overwhelming majority because they are tired of the fear machine. Now I know you all have your talking points. Frank Luntz pulled them out of the drawer, shined them up for 2008 and said, Hey, boys, here's the speech that worked in 1994. Use it again. It won't work, Mr. Speaker. The people want health care reform, and we're going to give it to them.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the lady on television said, "Where's the beef?" The American people are now saying, "Where's the jobs?" One of the things that the President promised was jobs for this country. The Speaker said, It's about jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs, but the national unemployment is 9.5 percent, and in the Midwest it's in double digits. Are those the jobs?

Yes, the Democrats have given us some jobs. They've given us this cap-and-tax bill which is going to stick a tax collector in everybody's pocket, destroy small businesses, and destroy jobs in the country. They've given us 33 czars at \$170,000 a year to reward their cronies who helped them get elected up here by creating new jobs in Washington for them.

Last night the Energy and Commerce Committee voted to put a bureaucrat between a doctor and his patient to tell him how he's going to treat that sick person. That's a new job they want to create. They've got this idea that if they throw enough money to ACORN, they're going to create jobs for ACORN—if they can keep the indictments away from them. These are not jobs.

THE IMPROVING JOB MARKET

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friends wanting to talk about jobs. They have the arguments that they want to pursue, but they don't want to let the facts get in the way of their argument. Let's start with the report we received today from the Federal Reserve.

We know that jobs fell off a cliff last fall and earlier this year as part of the Bush administration's efforts for jobs. Private nonfarm employment fell by 670,000 jobs on average per the month from January to April, but declines slowed to 312,000 in May and 415,000 in June. The May and June declines in construction jobs were the smallest since last fall.

Job declines and temporary employment applications slowed noticeably, and employment in nonbusiness services turned up in May and increased further in June. That's why we have

the stock market going up. That's why consumer confidence is going up is because this is working, even if my friends' arguments are not working.

JOBLESSNESS IS NOT JUST A TALKING POINT

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this ain't a talking point. Last night I talked to one of my constituents. This man is an unemployed truck driver. His statement to me was a very clear one: Where are the jobs? Where are the jobs?

He said, You guys back there in Washington have put together a so-called stimulus bill that cost me—he's still a taxpayer—\$1 trillion, and now you plan to take over the entire health care system in this country? He said, It would be devastating. I am looking for a job as a truck driver again, and with what you've done on cap-and-trade, it's going to undermine my ability to do that.

The message is loud and clear. It's not coming from anyone putting together talking points, Mr. Speaker. It's coming from the American people to Democrats and Republicans alike in this Congress. Where are the jobs?

GOVERNMENT MUST RUN USING PAYGO PRINCIPLES

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

Mr. MINNICK. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will consider a law requiring us to do what every other American taxpayer must do with its family finances, something very simple and very basic, pay for what we spend.

Ten years ago, thinking somehow it didn't need outside fiscal discipline, Congress abandoned this commonsense approach, wasted our budget surpluses, and went on a spending frenzy, doubling our national debt. Now we face the largest budget deficit in our Nation's history.

Our government cannot continue to borrow and spend, create ever-higher levels of debt, and pass along the costs of paying for it to our children and grandchildren. We are now relying on trillions of dollars of money borrowed from China and Middle Eastern oil states to pay our bills. This can't continue.

It's time we grow up, act like responsible adults and return to fiscal sanity. With this measure, any new spending we pass must be deficit-neutral. This is the long overdue essential first step towards a return to fiscal responsibility that will assure our creditors and demonstrate to the American public that we deserve to govern.

I salute my Blue Dog colleagues for their persistence on bringing this critical issue to a vote. I urge my colleagues to support this simple, commonsense bill.