

to a recent report by Citizens Against Government Waste, an organization that has 600,000 members. The report is called "Medicare Fraud: Tales from the Gyped." This report gives examples of Medicare fraud from all parts of the country.

Why is it we do not strengthen these laws instead of weakening them as Republicans do in this bill? FBI Director Louis Freeh has testified that cocaine distributors in southern Florida are turning to Medicare fraud. We need to strengthen that in the Republican bill instead of weakening it. It is so important that you realize that senior citizens in Florida and in other States must be given an opportunity for quality care, not a three-tiered level of care but one level of care that everyone can make their quality of lives much better.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, but there is an epidemic in this country of people who want to beat the system. Why should we make it better? Why should the Republican leadership do this?

There are a majority of Republicans who voted against Medicare, Mr. Speaker. Why is it now they are such proponents of Medicare? We should kill this bill tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

PRESERVING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend and colleague the gentlewoman from Florida bemoan what she feels to be inadequacies in the new Majority's plan for Medicare reform.

Let me point out to the gentlewoman and indeed other Members of the Minority who may share her concerns that this Majority is listening. As a matter of fact, the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF] will offer an amendment tomorrow, I think more than symbolic, I think symptomatic of the fact that we address that we have a serious problem here and we are looking for legitimate ways to solve it. So be on the lookout.

Mr. Speaker, I trust the gentlewoman from Florida will join us, as will many of her colleagues on the other side, to vote for a responsible amendment to add even more fraud and waste abuse prevention.

Let us tell you what the plan is doing right now even without the Schiff amendment. Here is what we are doing in the plan to strengthen Federal efforts to combat waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare program.

First of all, we are providing monetary incentives for individuals who report a violation that results in savings to the program. Second, we are doubling sanctions for filing false claims or committing fraud. Third, we are authorizing direct spending from Medicare trust funds for the OHS Inspector General.

Again, let us address the fact that we will deal with waste, fraud and abuse. Some steps are taken, even more steps will be forthcoming tomorrow in the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF].

It has been interesting to hear some of the debate tonight. While good people can from time to time disagree, and oftentimes we do in this Chamber, as is our right, being American citizens, I did listen with interest to one of the Members compare this with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That has no place in this debate. That has no place whatsoever.

The gentlewoman from Florida used the term mendacity to talk about the new majority's plan. Mendacity to those building word power—the gentleman from Ohio went and checked the dictionary—and it refers to deceit or lies.

The facts speak for themselves. The Medicare trustees' report issued by a bipartisan group said the Medicare trust fund goes broke in 7 years if we do not move to solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, one of my friends from Pennsylvania pointed out that when this Medicare bill was passed in 1965, only 7 percent of the then minority party, the Republican Party, voted for Medicare. I guess we could play historical one-upmanship. I guess we could come in and say, which party controlled the Congress when the slaves were freed, which party controlled the Congress when women were given the right to vote. In both instances, the Republican Party controlled this Chamber.

But we are not here to play historical one-upmanship. For the question is not who created a program, the question is who is willing to step forward to protect, preserve and defend a program? The fact is, we have to move now deliberately to save this program. Band-Aid approaches will not work.

I do champion the fact that at long last our friends on the other side have offered a plan. One newspaper analysis called it "a deathbed conversion." After months of saying do not do anything, things are going fine, do not change the system, the, suddenly, in the last nanosecond of the 11th hour, the new minority steps forward and says, "Well, yeah, there has got to be a change, but not too much of a change."

When the canard that failed to work, that these savings were somehow going to tax breaks, when that canard failed to sink in with the American people, then they said, "Well, we have to look for a plan." It is a plan, regrettably, symptomatic of the politics of the past, for what it calls for is a Band-Aid approach.

Let us get through the next election and maybe, if we are lucky, a few years beyond that. Believe me, when it comes to electoral health, I think everyone's impulse would be, gee, if we did not have to deal with the problem, we would not want to, but the fact is we are elected to govern. It is our respon-

sibility to save this program, reasonably, rationally. We passed a budget plan. We took care of the tax cuts way back in March. We have paid for the tax breaks. Even if the budget were balanced tomorrow, we would still have this problem with Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, friends on the other side, we may disagree. But it is incumbent on all of us to look to preserve a program for the future, and Medicare Plus does that and more. It offers choice. It offers freedom to the American people to choose the doctor they want and the health care plan they want. That is why I urge my colleagues to join with us in a bipartisan fashion to reform Medicare in the years to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

AGAINST THE MEDICARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. OLIVER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will consider the Republican bill to dismantle Medicare. We should be not at all surprised, because 93 percent of Republicans voted against Medicare when it was created in 1965. Even the Republican leader in the other branch, the Presidential candidate, BOB DOLE, cast one of those no votes.

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Republicans have waited 30 years for their chance to dismantle Medicare. So who is backing them in this effort? Well, first off, private insurance companies are thrilled because they stand to make billions of dollars. It is insane to turn over billions of Medicare dollars, tax dollars, to insurance companies who will waste about 25 cents of every Medicare dollar on profits and administrative costs, when the current Medicare system only spends about 3 cents of every dollar on administrative costs. That takes senior citizens' health care dollars and gives them to insurance company profits.

Who else is with the Republicans? Well, the American Medical Association. By the way, they also opposed Medicare when it was created. But the October 12 headline in the Wall Street Journal tells the whole story there, and I quote, "House GOP Medicare bill wins over doctors with hidden enticements, promises of profits."

Republicans are not talking about comprehensive health care reform this year. They are cutting \$270 billion out of the Medicare budget to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut package. More than half of the tax cuts go to persons who make

over \$100,000, hardly people who are needy, while 75 percent of the seniors covered by Medicare live on less than \$24,000 a year, and they are going to be the losers.

The Republicans are going to rob middle- and low-income seniors of their choice of doctors, access to hospitals, and high quality health care to give tax cuts to a handful of wealthy Americans. It is unconscionable.

The Republican bill is bad legislation. The Republicans know it cannot stand up to scrutiny. That is why they are making a mockery of the legislative process. No opportunity for comment from the 37 million affected Americans and they will ram this through the House in just a few short hours of debate. That is why I held Medicare forums in my district so my constituents could be heard. And I did hear from seniors, their family members, hospitals, doctors, nurses, home care providers, and these wonderful people shined a very bright light on why the Republicans need to gag the public in order to ram their bill through.

Let me tell you what people have to say. Two working women with mothers in their 80's told me their mothers receive home nursing care covered by Medicare. This care allows their mothers to remain in their homes. Without this care these working women would either have to quit their jobs and become nurses or spend every penny they have to pay for a nursing home. It is not small change, because nursing home care averages about \$40,000 a year.

Doctors told me that these cuts will force them to make unethical choices every day. Doctors will have the technology to alleviate pain or improve the quality of life but they will not have the money to use it. It is called rationing, and doctors will be forced to do it every day.

To their credit, the Massachusetts Medical Society has broken ranks with the AMA and does not support this bill. And the director of elder services in Berkshire County shared the following story with me and the one I want to leave you with.

In Ashley Falls, Phil and Agnes are waging a battle with her advanced Parkinson's disease. Both are determined to stay together at home, but her current care needs demand so much of Phil. Her disease prevents any movement. Through the VNA, Agnes' Medicare provided home health care aides once each day and physical therapy twice each week. Elder services provides respite for Phil twice a week. A home health aide cares for Agnes so Phil can shop and run errands and maybe even go to the doctor himself. Medicare does not cover it all. Phil does feeding, toileting, and dressing for Agnes as well as laundry, cooking, and cleaning, but assistance the Medicare-funded aide gives daily makes this huge task doable. There are no children to help.

I do not know, but how do the Republicans think this couple is going to manage? The truth is, they are not thinking about the human consequences of this enormous Medicare cut. The truth is they just do not care what happens to Agnes and Phil. And for those reasons, I intend to vote tomorrow against their bill.

SENIORS NEED NOT BE SCARED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mrs. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening tonight and listening to some of the statements I have heard. And I have worked with the elderly for years, chaired the long-term care committee in our State, have worked in the nursing homes and delivered meals to the elderly in their homes. And tonight I think there is a whole lot of calls that need to be made into our districts from 430-plus legislators telling these people the truth. We can argue over the future. We can argue over our assumptions, but we have to tell them the truth.

When I heard tonight a quote from an older lady saying, and this was from the lady from North Carolina, from a person in her district, she said, without Medicare I will have nothing. I pictured faces that I know.

I hope that women from North Carolina assured her there was nothing before Congress that took away her medical care, because what I could picture is them listening to all of this and believing their medical bills are not going to be paid next month or next year or the next year. And I think the important thing is that we all tell them, please, do not be frightened. We are trying to save this system. And it is important that you know you do not have to be frightened. Because you see, what you are saying by not calling them and telling them we are talking about systems, we are not talking about tomorrow for you, what you are doing is you are scaring them. And you need to tell them they do not have to worry. If you do anything less than that, you are using the elderly for your political gain, whether you are Republican or Democrat. And that is so shameful to these vulnerable people, sitting in their homes listening to TV night after night, listening to this.

I also heard earlier, we are going to dismantle Medicare. No. That is not true. No matter who says it. No matter who is listening, that is not true. The good thing that happens with untruths is the future proves them out. If after this vote next month you find out by a letter in the mail, a proclamation in the newspaper, that Medicare has been dismantled, then you know tonight what was said here was true. But you will find next month, time is going to show that is not true.

If next month all of a sudden you are required to have a great co-pay or you

are forced into some system you do not want, then you will know what was said tonight is true. But let me tell you what you are going to find.

No one should be frightened, if you are sitting in your home, if you are just not sure, do not be frightened. The trustees report in February frightened me. I was a new legislator. I had got that Presidential report from his trustees when it said Medicare was going to be bankrupt. And I thought, I have heard every so many years Medicare is going to go bankrupt and I do not agree with it. I cannot believe it. The Federal Government has a lot of money and they will make it work. So I started going through it on a flight home. Takes me about 7 hours to fly home to the west coast.

When I got done with the actuaries, and I do know how to read these reports, I found out it was true. The amount of imbalance is not sure. It is hard to tell how long I will live and how much we will take out of it or what health care costs will be, but for sure it is not stable. Some say it is, \$100 billion, some say \$200 billion. It is just not stable.

One thing that is for sure is middle of next year we start draining that trust fund, the money we have put in, and we take more money out than goes in. We know that for sure. But I resolved, when I read that report, that I was going to join an effort that would stabilize it, secure it, and then I found out something else. You cannot secure it after 15 years. I am 45. When I hit Medicare, I am with the baby boomers. I blow it up.

There are two-to-one, my two, I have six grandkids and I have enough. Some people do not have enough. And they cannot sustain the number of elderly that will be on it. But for right now, I want to make a commitment.

I will tell you, do not worry. It is going to be stabilized and this is a responsible approach tomorrow. And you will have Medicare tomorrow, next week, and next year.

MEDICARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH].

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate it because I have asked four times for my colleagues on the other side to yield for a specific question.

In response to statements that were made from four different of my Republican colleagues, I think it is symptomatic that they refuse to yield, that they refuse to engage in a dialog on this issue because the truth is, the truth is on our side. It is the old maxim: When the truth is on your side and you have the facts, that is what you argue. When the law is on your side, that is what you argue. And when you have nothing, all you do is argue.