

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, we have been told that the public option is now back on the table, but we have to call it by some other name. Well, I have done a little work on the criminal justice side, and we used to have something called prior acts evidence. You look at what someone has done in the past and you see how that allows you to interpret what they are doing now.

So let's look at what we have done with the issue of student loans. Oh, yes, we got rid of the private option for student loans this month, because the President and the Democrats said the government has to take it over. And now we have in this bill an effort to try and get rid of the only private option in Medicare. It is called Medicare Advantage.

But forget about that, because when they tell us now the private option is just an option for competition and they are not going to take over by government the health care system, trust them with that. Forget about the prior evidence. Give them the benefit of the doubt.

The American people aren't fooled. They look at what they have done before, they look at what they are doing now, and they are telling us, help us stop them. Help us stop them.

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, you know, I will tell you what is scary. What is scary is the woman who came into my office a few weeks ago who shared her story with me to tell me about her breast cancer experience that she had just been through for the third time. She told me how I as a breast cancer survivor was fortunate because when I was diagnosed all I had to worry about was fighting the cancer. When she was diagnosed, she also one day later lost her job and, with it, her health insurance. So not only did she have to battle breast cancer, but she also was faced with battling how she was going to get her health care taken care of so she could get well from breast cancer and continue to be the survivor that she has been for many, many years.

Americans are tired of the party of "no." Americans are tired of obstacle after obstacle standing at that podium insisting on making up things that just aren't true.

There are bills out there that are available and accessible to anyone to look at. This has been an open and transparent process. But the bottom line is there are 46 million people that don't have health insurance. We need to provide stability and security to those that do and bring the costs down.

I challenge our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us

on true health care reform, instead of being the party of "no."

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I come from northwest Ohio. I know that many of my colleagues from around this House go home every weekend, and it wasn't very long ago I was home and I was speaking with one of our small business owners.

He came up to me and said, Bobby, I have a question to ask you. He said, Where are we on this health care?

I told him. I said, This is where it looks like we are going.

He said, Do you think it is going to pass?

I said, I am not really sure right now. But he said, You know what? I am going to tell you something. I have been trying to read these bills to the best of my ability to find out what is in them. I am going to tell you right now, if this bill passes, there is no way I can survive. I am going to have to close up.

We are talking about people and their health care, and it is very important. There is not one person in this Chamber that would say we should not be doing something about health care in this country. But we also have people out there trying to put jobs out there so people can work. And when I looked around that business where he was, you start saying, Where are these people going to go after this? We have over 10 percent unemployment in Ohio, and it is getting tougher. The worst is yet to come.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want health care reform, but we have to do it responsibly.

HEALTH CARE

(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, the people may be wondering what is going on here today. Well, you are watching the charge of the light brigade. The Republicans believe that they can just throw themselves into it and they will stop it. But they are not going to stop it.

The other night, Tuesday night, New York City, a friend of mine had a problem. He called a doctor's office and got the first question, which is always, What kind of insurance do you have?

He said, Well, I don't have any insurance. I am from out of the country.

They said, Oh, well, you can come in and see the doctor, but you have to bring \$250 in cash or the doctor will not see you.

He said, I don't have that kind of cash.

They said, Well, tough luck. Go to the emergency room.

Now, that is the health care system that my colleagues in the light brigade want to protect. Keep trying to protect it, guys. It ain't going to work. The American people want a change, and they are going to get one.

□ 1300

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that the rules of the House require that Members address their comments to the Chair.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, as a substitute for a plan that actually controls health care costs, the Senate majority leader has devised a gimmick. Under the plan announced yesterday, the Federal Government imposes billions of dollars of taxes on all 50 States, imposes billions in unfunded mandates via the Medicaid program, increasing the debt load of every citizen, creating a new government-run insurance program that, according to the CBO's official analysis, is more expensive than the status quo. Individual States can opt out, but their citizens cannot opt out of the taxes, and they can't opt out of the debt, and they can't opt out of the job losses that will result from these higher taxes and debt.

Real reform will not require gimmicks or job loss. States should not have to pass laws to save themselves. Real health reform lowers costs by empowering patients. If we give patients direct control over health care dollars and the information they need for value-conscious decisions, we will have reform.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the debate we're having today is between two groups—those who believe we can improve America and those who believe we can't improve America. We believe we can improve American energy; they believe we can't. We believe we can improve health care; they believe we can't. We believe we can stop insurers from preventing us from having coverage because we have a preexisting condition; they believe we can't. We need some more Republicans and fewer Republican's because saying we can't improve America is not up to the standards that America was built on. We can stop insurance companies. Let's get some more of these Republican's to become Republicans and help us reform health care in this country.

HALLOWEEN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the dark caverns of the Capitol where the trolls roam at night, the Halloween health care bill is being drafted by a secret few. The bill is being written in secret so no one, especially seniors, see it.

Mr. Speaker, what is being cooked up in the dungeons of this building? Is it just too scary for people to know about? Well, probably so. You see, it takes \$500 billion from Medicare and gives that money to the national Halloween health care bill. That's a frightening nightmare for people, especially seniors. And more importantly, it turns America's health over to the government.

Does anyone actually think the government can do it better? The Halloween health care bill will probably have the competence of FEMA, the efficiency of the post office, and the compassion of the IRS. The bill may be ready just in time for Halloween, and it will be a treat for the special interest groups, but it's a trick on the American people, especially the seniors. No wonder they're scared of it.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday the front page of The New York Times reported a survey of insurance brokers across America who have now predicted that the increase in insurance rates for small businesses in 2010 will be 15 to 23 percent. Last year it was 7 to 12 percent. So if your premium as a small business for a worker was \$4,500 in 2008, it will be \$5,500 in 2010. That is the Halloween surprise for small businesses in America today. There is no group in America that takes a harder hit than the self-employed and small group markets who have no mechanism to pool their risk that large employers and people in the Congress benefit from, as members of the Federal Employee Health Benefits plan.

This bill will create a national purchasing exchange so that the risk-takers in America will actually have the opportunity to provide and buy affordable health insurance for themselves and their employees. It is for America's capitalism and for America's entrepreneurs that the need to fix this market is the most critical, and that is why it is time to stop listening to the voices of "no" and move forward with real health care reform that will make America's economy grow and be viable.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. As a physician with over 30 years experience in treating patients, I came to Washington to participate in the great health care debate. Everyone in this Chamber agrees, we need health care reform. I will tell you, to be the first, I want to opt out of the public option. We've tried that in Tennessee, and it was a fiscal disaster. Costs tripled in less than 10 years, quality decreased, and access decreased.

What are we going to do? We're going to take \$400 billion to \$500 billion away from our senior citizens' health care while in 2011, we're going to add 3 million to 3.5 million baby boomers each year. That's 30 million more people. Guess what: They can do the math. Decreased access, decreased quality, and increased costs will be the result of this right here.

Americans should ask themselves one question at the end of the day: When this huge, 1,000-page, incomprehensible bill, which I've read every page of, comes to fruition, will the health care that I get and my family gets and that my doctor is able to provide for me, will it improve? The answer is "no."

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing here is, we are on the brink of passing health care reform in this country. Why are we doing that? We're doing this for my constituents and constituents across the country. We're doing it for the grandparents who I saw on Sunday, whose 12-year-old granddaughter, a life full of promise, is awaiting a transplant, but she might not be able to get that transplant. They have optimistic signs that she would be fine, but she might not get that because her health insurance is about to reach its cap.

And we're doing it for the elderly gentleman who I met. He had a part of his arm stripped away because he had melanoma as a young man. He never had another day of sickness regarding melanoma in his life, but he has dodged health care issues forever because he couldn't get insurance because of his preexisting condition. Now he's on Medicare, and he has that system that is working for him.

But that's not how it should be in this country. You shouldn't have to wait to be 65 in order to access affordable, quality health care. We're better than that, and we're going to give the American people better than that.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives

will soon be debating a health care reform proposal on the floor of this Chamber. The biggest question in this proposal will be whether or not we should have a government-controlled health insurance option called the public option that is targeted to cost about \$900 billion, half of which is on the backs of the taxpayers and small businesses of this country in the form of higher taxes, surcharges and fees, and the other half is money stripped out of the Medicare system; hundreds of billions of dollars stripped out of Medicare.

When the proponents tell you that if you like the insurance that you have, you can keep it, they're not referring to the 10 million seniors who are on the Medicare Advantage Program that will be phased out. Mr. Speaker, it's important that the proponents of the public option be honest with the seniors of this country in terms of what it will do to them.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, the news from the Senate that they will include a public option in the health reform bill is encouraging, as we in the House prepare to vote on comprehensive reform. It is also precisely what the majority of Americans want. They want true competition in the health insurance market, and only the public option can do that. If the current insurance market had wanted to provide equitable and affordable health coverage for Americans, we wouldn't have 47 million uninsured people.

These are our constituents, our neighbors, even our family members. It's the young mother who called me to tell me that her daughter, born with spina bifida, was being denied a life-saving surgery. I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming the news from the Senate. Let's pass real health reform now.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the jury is out. The jury is looking right now, and they're wondering, What's going on with health care? We've heard all this evidence here today. Some say this; some say that. But the Democrats say, We're going to make it better, the government can do it better, and we're going to make it better. Our experience says, Wait a minute; the government doesn't do things very well.

So where's the evidence that it is going to do it better? Well, hold on. It's still behind closed doors. When we come out from underneath those closed doors, we'll give you 72 hours to try to