

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, somewhere in this Capitol, behind closed doors, the Democrats, by themselves, are writing a health care reform bill that is going to cost the taxpayers of this country more than \$1 trillion.

Added on top of the enormous debt that we already have, this legislation is also going to include mandates that are going to risk millions of American jobs. At a time when we have nearly 10 percent unemployment and nearly 15 million people in this country looking for work, they're going to pass legislation that's going to cost millions of more jobs if they attempt to mandate on small businesses, which are struggling, an additional obligation of an 8½ percent payroll tax.

In addition, this is going to harm our senior citizens in a multitude of ways. Those of them who are on Medicare Advantage plans, like thousands in my congressional district in Virginia, are going to lose the opportunity to participate in those plans as they take \$162 billion in cuts out of that portion of Medicare and \$400 billion in cuts from Medicare overall.

Save our seniors. Vote against this bad plan.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, we need health care reform right now. We need it on behalf of the 47 million people who don't have insurance. We need it on behalf of the 217 in my district who don't have any insurance.

They talk about costs. What costs are going to go up if we don't do anything about health coverage?

Right now, many of our seniors are suffering. They're wondering how they're going to pay their health care bills, how they're going to put food on the table and how they're going to take care of themselves. A lot of youth are asking: How are we going to provide health insurance for a lot of us who don't have it?

We owe it to the American people. This is not about maintaining the status quo, and this is not about protecting the insurance companies. This is about doing something for the American people. It's time that we have a health plan that covers all Americans to make sure that we're not left out, to make sure that everybody has the ability to enjoy their quality of life and to be able to say: You know what? I know that I'm going to get coverage, and it doesn't matter where I am.

I am not going to maintain the status quo. With the Republicans, it's all about maintaining the status quo, and that's not what America wants. We

need to make sure that we have a health plan.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID has included an opt-out plan into this health care plan. We all know that it is still just a government-run plan that's going to require a vote of the legislature.

Now, do we really think that the Governor and the legislature are going to vote for a plan that opts them out of the plan but yet requires the taxpayers of that State to pay for that plan? Why, of course not.

Whether it's opt-out, opt-in, trigger plan—whatever it's called—it's still a government-run plan that's going to create an unfair advantage for the government against private insurance, causing many people to lose their plans.

I am not going to vote for a plan that raises taxes, that cuts benefits or that drives a Washington bureaucrat between the patients whom I represent and the physicians.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, during my recent trips back to my congressional district, I spent time with many small business owners who are still in business and who are able to continue to keep their doors open, but they do so by cutting back the health care benefits to themselves and to their workers. In some cases, they're getting rid of health care, and they lament that fact because they are very fond of their workforce. They believe that they're very productive and that they've helped them, but they simply cannot afford it.

They're part of a larger movement in this country of businesses, both large and small, to get out of the health care field and to stop offering these benefits, in some cases, to new hires and, in some cases, to all of their employees. We're seeing this with a record number of companies. Why are they doing that?

It's for the same reason that families are struggling. It's because the costs of health care continue to go up and up and up. It's crushing America's families and it's crushing America's businesses.

That's why we're going to have in the next couple of weeks a vote on health care in this House and in the Senate, and we will send a bill to the President's desk so that, finally, we will have real competition in this system and so that insurance companies will no longer run this system for their fun and profit.

The time for change is coming. It is time now for health care for all Americans.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the groups which is suffering under the tough economic times is seniors.

Some are still working to earn enough money just to make ends meet. Some are on fixed incomes, and every slight increase in expenses can cause them to experience difficult times.

That's why I'm very concerned about the Democrats' health care proposal to make massive cuts to Medicare Advantage plans, which would take benefits away from our senior citizens, even though President Obama has promised Americans that, if they like their health care plans, they can keep them.

The Democrats' plan to cut Medicare Advantage will limit choices; it will cause seniors to lose their coverage; it will increase prescription drug premiums by as much as 20 percent. It will even have an exceptionally harmful impact on seniors in rural areas when we try to force them into a one-size-fits-all government plan.

I will not support a health care plan that cuts benefits for millions of our seniors, who have worked their entire lives paying into this system. We can't ask our seniors on fixed incomes to pay higher costs, and we can't force seniors off of their health care plans they choose.

As a Republican, I am for health care reform, but it's wrong to finance health care reform on the backs of our seniors.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, America is a great country. It is the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

The reason that it is the greatest country on the face of the Earth is that, at great moments of crisis, this country has risen to the occasion. When it was during the Depression, we rose to the occasion. When we needed Social Security, we rose to the occasion. With Medicare, we rose to the occasion.

Also at that time, there were the naysayers. There were people who would just say "no." That's what my friends on the other side of the aisle did. Where is their plan? They have no plan.

At this moment of crisis, we Democrats are standing here, and are saying America deserves better. America deserves the best. Now, they talk about our being in the dark with plans? We've had health care debates. We've had

meetings. We've had bills moving through three houses in this Congress—two in the House and in the Senate. Republicans have had their shot. We need this bill. Let's stand up for America and have health care.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans were just castigated for being the party of "no," and I would submit that it is just the opposite, and this is why.

The President of the United States, in a historic move, gave a speech to the joint session of the House. He said, If any Republicans have positive ideas, they need to come to me, and I'll be happy to sit down with them.

Well, I wrote a letter to the President, taking him up on that wonderful offer, and said, I have a positive alternative, Mr. President. Could I sit down and share that with you? I'm still waiting by my desk for that return phone call, and I have yet to receive the courtesy reply as have multiple of my Republican colleagues offered to the President to share with him their positive alternatives.

The party of "no" is the party that locks the door on Republicans to even prevent them from coming into a committee room to offer our positive alternatives. We have them. What has the majority offered? They've offered to cut Medicare to senior citizens by \$500 billion. Is that a positive alternative? We have loads of them. We're the party of "yes."

Stop being the party of "no."

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all of the American people need health care now. Reform must come, and it's coming to the floor very soon.

For those who are pleased with their health care insurance, they can keep it. Their costs might even go down with reform. What we want to do is rescue the insurance from under anti-trust-ignoring insurance companies. We all pay insurance, and we like insurance, but no one wants to be abused by any system, and we have seen that happen.

The hospitals are attempting to perform all of this uncompensated care. With this reform, it will be different. I suppose that correcting preexisting conditions and getting sick will cause some to lose health care support. We must make this change.

You know, I keep hearing what the Republicans are saying, but Mr. Speaker, but that's not what the plan says.

REPEATING OUR MISTAKES

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, today's unemployment rate of 9.8 percent last reached that level in 1983. President Ronald Reagan responded by cutting taxes and by reducing regulatory burdens on the economy, and he produced the biggest peacetime economic expansion in our Nation's history.

Today, President Obama is doing exactly the opposite. ObamaCare, cap-and-trade and the other measures promise the biggest tax increases and the heaviest regulations that we've ever seen.

Three Presidents within the last 100 years have responded to recessions by reducing taxes and regulations. Warren Harding, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan all produced rapid and dramatic economic recoveries.

We've had two Presidents in those 100 years who reacted to recessions by doing the opposite—Herbert Hoover in the early 1930s, who radically increased taxes and spending and who imposed unprecedented burdens on trade, and the other is Barack Obama.

As they say, those who refuse to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.

HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that I've never heard someone quote Herbert Hoover as being so bad and President Obama as being so good. We have to remember that Herbert Hoover was actually a Republican.

Mr. Speaker, am I supposed to have the floor or do the Republicans have it part time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in strong support of a national health care plan that provides comprehensive health care for every American.

Three House committees had many public hearings and public votes on the bill, H.R. 3200. Democrats are using the same public rules that the Republicans used when they were in charge. They just don't like them because they don't have the majority now.

We have so many people uninsured in our country. My own district has the highest uninsured in the country of people who have private insurance—35 percent of our district has private health care, and over 40 percent is uninsured because they can't afford it or their employers don't provide it.

We've given private insurance companies plenty of time to cover the 39

million U.S. citizens who don't have health care, but they can't do it because they can't make a profit on someone like that. So that's why we need a public option. H.R. 3200 will help that. We will have health care for everyone.

□ 1330

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Members are requested not to traffic the well when another Member is under recognition.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the constituents of the First District of Florida and the people across this country have spoken loud and clear: We do not want a public option or government-run health care.

But I guess the Democrats can't hear from behind closed doors.

The majority leaders have turned a deaf ear to the American people and continue to insist on a public option. Whether it be an exchange, a co-op, single payer, or whether States opt in or opt out, the fact is the majority party leaders, behind closed doors, are crafting a final health care bill that would force a public option down our throats.

If a robust public option is absolutely critical to health insurance for Americans, then why does this increased coverage not occur until at least 5 years after enactment?

This health care reform bill is a farce and should be voted down. Americans don't want government-run health care as their only option.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, as I sit here and listen to one after another of the Republicans here in Congress finding reasons not to move ahead, not to find that uniquely American solution to helping every American have access to health insurance, the fact is that we have to do more. We have to act right now to ensure that every American has access to insurance coverage; that that insurance coverage is affordable, and that it is meaningful; that it covers preexisting conditions and provides for ongoing care for chronic diseases; that we can ensure that Americans get quality care and the right care, including for our seniors.

Legislation we have coming before us protects seniors, makes sure that they see lower copayments for primary care,