

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, in these delaying tactics that we see from the other side, let's not lose track of the big picture. The health care reform legislation taking shape recognizes the different ways that Americans get their health care and helps each one. Those who get their health coverage through their employment will find that insurance companies cannot yank them around, or cut them off if their health treatment becomes expensive, or discriminate against them for pre-existing conditions.

Those who get their health care through Medicare will keep the Medicare they know and love; only it will be better. Closing the gap in the coverage of prescription medicine, the so-called doughnut hole, and moving toward a more patient-based, less procedure-based system. And those not well served by today's existing system, small businesses, employees and employers, people between jobs, individual contractors and consultants, can get their coverage at lower group rates and can get assistance in paying those premiums. And overall, this will hold down the rising cost of health care in America.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, do we have good doctors in this country? Do we have good surgeons? Do we have good hospitals? And do we have reasonable access to that care? The answer is clear that we do.

Do you believe that a government takeover of our health care system will make health care better or worse? Do you really trust the Federal Government to take over this important part of our lives? The last thing that we need is to have some government bureaucrat standing between you and your doctor on making these important decisions.

Finally, the Democratic health care plan will hurt seniors by cutting Medicare. This Democratic plan will push unfunded mandates to my home State of Mississippi in the average amount of \$360 million a year for the next 10 years. My district and our country simply can't afford this.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am from the State of Michigan, where people are losing their health insurance every day. Businesses are struggling to pay for health insurance for their employees.

I rise today to give voice to one of my constituents, Mike Gossett, who

works for Apollo Express, a trucking company in Jackson, Michigan. He says he is a partner in this company of 70 full- and part-time employees. They have 42 employees on their health insurance program. Just this year, they received notice of a 15 percent increase in their health insurance rates for next year. He tells me this happens each and every year, and they are looking for answers. He fears that they will be forced to continue to decrease their coverage where they will just be able to offer catastrophic coverage for their employees.

Our families and our businesses are paying more and more every year and getting less and less. He is calling upon us, Democrats and Republicans, to fix this problem. That's why I am here in Congress, and I hope we can work together to pass health care reform.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it happened last week. Who would have thought that in the United States of America, a Federal government pay czar, a Federal government bureaucrat, would tell a private American citizen how much money they can make. But it happened last week.

And now if the majority party has their way, coming soon to you and your family, a Federal takeover of health care with all of the taxes and all of the bureaucrats getting between you and your family.

Mr. Speaker, pay czar, car czar, energy czar, a \$1.4 trillion deficit, sometimes I actually think the other party won't be happy until government runs everything. Sometimes I actually think the other party won't be happy until they have an IV hooked up to the taxpayer wallet and they can hit the drip button every time they want.

What we need is common sense, what we need is real reform, not more government.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of a bill that obviously some people in this room haven't read. And some people in this room don't realize that in order to get results, you have got to do the positive. You have to work hard and you have to vote "yes." Voting "no" doesn't provide any leadership; it just keeps the status quo.

But remember, part of this bill is going to have everybody in America have the same kind of insurance that we in Congress have. They don't want to admit that. They don't want to give up that insurance. They won't say "no" to that insurance. They won't say "no" to the TRICARE insurance that spouses and children of military folks

get. That's what we are going to open it up to. That is the Medicare rates. They won't say "no" to Medicare for senior citizens. They just say "no" to the bill that is going to try to solve it for everybody else who doesn't have access to health care and can't afford health care and has preexisting conditions and can't get health care.

Also, insurance companies are raising premiums right now, all over this country, including the rates that we here in Congress will have to pay. And the party of "no" has said nothing about that. Read the bill. Yes, read the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask Members to respect the gavel and allow each Member the opportunity to have their say.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, 57 percent of Americans believe the majority's health care plan will raise their health care costs. Only 18 percent believe it lowers costs. Fewer than 1 in 4 Americans believe this plan will improve the quality of health care in America. And according to the Rasmussen poll out yesterday, this is a fact.

So what is Washington's response? To press on. The omnipresent defenders of the nonexistent problems of 80 percent of Americans are crafting another plan, in secret, one they haven't even read yet.

The American people have given this plan a vote of no confidence. Given the hundreds of billions of dollars in budget shortfalls for health plans Washington already runs—Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP—is it any wonder the American people don't believe what they are being told about this?

It is time to go back to the drawing board, and we on this side of the aisle stand ready, willing, and able to work with you in a bipartisan fashion for the best interests of the people of this great country.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important responsibility in front of us on health care reform. We are at a momentous time in our history. For the first time, we have a bill that has been approved by all five committees of jurisdiction. And although there are still details to be worked out, for the first time the majority of us have consensus on the structures and goals of this bill. We have never gotten this far, and I feel

privileged to be in the House of Representatives at this time.

So now is not the time to say “no,” to instill false fear, and to derail this important effort. We must work together to make sure that what we end up passing is the best it can be for the American people because the cost of doing nothing is too great. Without reform, the cost of health care for the average American family is expected to rise \$1,800 every year, with no end in sight. If we don’t act now, this problem is only going to get worse. If we don’t act, 14,000 Americans will continue to lose their health insurance every single day. We are in a unique moment.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my friends on the majority side have stood before this body today asking about the Republican alternative, where it is. Well, I would ask my friends on the majority side, where is their bill? The three committees in the House of Representatives each passed different bills back in the summer. Those bills haven’t been merged. The Senate passed a conceptual document. Legislative language is not yet public on that bill.

We will have a Republican alternative, and I can tell you right now what will not be in it. There won’t be individual mandates that millions of Americans can’t afford. There won’t be employee mandates that thousands of small businesses can’t afford. There won’t be a health care choices administration that tells the private insurance sector what kind of coverage they have to provide. And there won’t be a comparative research bureaucracy that could easily lead to rationing of care.

There will be a national pool that covers all preexisting conditions. There will be subsidies for low-income Americans. There will be some sort of a compensation package for our health care providers. So I would ask my majority: Where is their bill?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am sad today. I hear my Republican colleagues just getting up to say “no.” I tell my Republican colleagues, we have one of the greatest problems that we have ever confronted in this country. Health care has doubled in the last 8 years, and it will double in the next 8. And by the year 2020, health care costs will be \$25,000.

The bankruptcy of the steel industry, the bankruptcies in the auto industry and the small business industries are directly a cause from this.

Listen to Daniel Webster and see what Daniel Webster had to say. He said this—it is on the wall up there, and I urge my Republican colleagues to look at it—Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its power, build up its institutions, promote all of its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this. Let us sign together to move forward a bill that offers greatness to our country.

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JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a little memory check: Do we remember when the administration promised that by spending almost \$1 trillion, unemployment would go no higher than 8 percent? Well, now it’s close to 8 percent.

But not only has this administration failed to create jobs, it is rushing to enact other bills, other legislation that would lead to the loss of millions of more jobs.

The cap-and-trade bill would cost the loss of 2 to 3 million jobs a year here in the United States. This health care proposal could cost Americans 4.7 million jobs and lead to \$1 trillion in new spending and cuts in Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time to stop spending trillions of dollars in wasteful government programs. It’s time to stop targeting our senior citizens. What will it take, Mr. Speaker, for this administration and this Congress to finally start focusing on creating jobs?

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, our chance to make health care available to and affordable for the people of the United States is here. I prefer that we include the robust public option in our final plan because, first, it saves more than \$110 billion over any other plan, it covers far more people, and it provides real competition to private health insurers, which in turn will provide lower cost and higher quality for the people that are insured in the United States.

This is what we need. This is what we need to do for the people of our country. And now is the time for us to get on with it and do it.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Over 200 years ago, the Founding Fathers foresaw the

health care problems that we have today and they proposed a solution. We call it federalism. See, if something has to be done the same way at the same time by everybody, only the government can do it. But if you want creativity or to take into account different circumstances for justice, then States are, as Louis Brandeis said, the “laboratory of democracy.”

My State of Utah has instituted a health care reform the right way based on consumer choice and options where business has stable cost, workers have affordable portable options, and it’s designed for the demographics of Utah. But if the Pelosi bill or the Baucus bill were to be passed the way they are written today, that State innovation is destroyed.

All solutions and intellect are not here in this city. Creative solutions can happen when the Federal Government gets off the backs of individuals with their mandates and regulations and out of their pockets with their taxes; then real people have the ability to find truly creative solutions if we, the Congress, let them.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. I would like to show you the headlines from my community; “It’s Official: It’s a Stinker.” And what’s a stinker? That, according to the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey, in the largest county in this Nation, 22.3 percent of the people do not have health care insurance. In my district, Long Beach, 18.8 percent; in Compton, 25.5 percent. That’s one out of four people are walking around and do not have health care. And that’s important to all of us.

Why are we the only industrialized nation that doesn’t provide health care? Why is it that for my friends on the other side of the aisle we can spend billions for a war, but we can’t spend the same for health care? Something is wrong.

We applaud the Congress and the Senate and Senator REID for stepping up. We need to do this, and we need to do it now. I’m not willing to look one out of four constituents in the face and say you’re not good enough. Everyone deserves health care. And, oh, by the way, it helps all of us.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, if you like your current plan, it had better not be Medicare Advantage because the Democrat health plan proposal cuts \$162 billion from that program for our seniors. The reason is twofold; they need cuts to pay