

up about 14 percent of the population. That's higher than the national average. The seniors in Alabama and all over America deserve something better than the government takeover of health care.

The House Democrat plan includes massive cuts to Medicare that will result in Medicare Advantage plans dropping out of the program, limiting seniors' choices and causing many to lose their current health care coverage, and cuts to Medicare Advantage will have an exceptionally harmful impact on seniors in rural areas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

SENIORS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in my State of Florida, millions of seniors rely on Medicare for their health care, including 130,000 in my district alone.

On Monday, I held my annual seniors' health fair, which provides free health screenings to area seniors and which gives me an opportunity to continue getting their input on health care reform.

The overwhelming consensus from seniors in my district is that the Democrats' health care reform proposals would lead to fewer choices, to higher costs and to reduced quality. Of particular concern to many of the seniors I spoke with was whether they would be able to keep their existing coverage.

The House bill calls for \$163 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage, which is wildly popular with Florida seniors. The cuts will result in health care providers dropping out of the program, undermining choice and jeopardizing the more than 50,000 seniors in the Ninth District who rely on Medicare Advantage for their care.

We must not harm the health care seniors already receive.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, it has been pointed out that our Democratic colleagues have been drafting this health care plan behind closed doors, in the darkness of night; but yesterday, one of them emerged in the Senate—the majority leader—and he announced the best way to proceed with this plan is to have a government option with an opt-out provision for the States.

What does that mean? Nobody knows. How do you opt out? Nobody

knows. How long do you have to be in before you opt out? Nobody knows. What if all of the States decide to opt out? Nobody knows.

We do know a couple of things: Number one, we do know under this Democratic plan your taxes are going to go up. We do know under this Democratic plan your Medicare benefits are going to go down. We do know under this Democratic plan there are going to be more bureaucrats controlling your health care.

So they're trying to keep us in the dark, but we know enough to know this: This is a bad plan and there is a better way.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, when people get into the details of health care, I think they sometimes miss seeing the very big picture. The big picture here is that the Pelosi and the Democrat health care plan has this final destination, which is that it's going to be run by some czar or commissar in the Federal Government.

I guess the question I have is: On what sense of faith is this decision made?

Is it the efficiency of the Post Office, perhaps, that inspires them or the compassion of the IRS, or is it, perhaps, the Department of Energy that was created to make sure we wouldn't be dependent on foreign oil or, perhaps, the Department of Education, which was studied some years ago, and it was determined in the study that, if a foreign power had done what the Department of Education has done to America, it would be considered an act of war?

Why do we want to destroy the health care system that 100 million Americans enjoy in order to just simply socialize it and to turn it over to some czar in Washington, D.C.?

That's an act of faith that's just too hard to follow.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, across this country, we have millions of people who are concerned. Deep in their bellies, when they go to sleep at night, husbands and wives are concerned about putting food on their tables; they're concerned about their jobs, their futures, their kids, and their country.

We have an opportunity to help them.

You listen to the Democratic side of the aisle, and you hear them say, Oh, just trust us—\$787 billion on the credit card. That will help the economy.

It hasn't.

Unemployment is getting worse. It's over 10 percent in many parts of this country. Cash for Clunkers: Oh, yeah, that will be a great program. We'll pull money out of everybody's wallets, and we'll hand it to a select few. It hasn't worked.

I, for one, do not trust the Federal Government, and the one-size-fits-all, slam-it-down-your-throat Federal solution to government health care is not the solution for the United States of America. We need Americans across this country to rise up and to say, No, we are not going to stand for it anymore. We're going to be in control of our government.

May God bless the United States of America. May God bless the men and women, our troops, who are serving across this country.

HEALTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, we are actually having a debate today far beyond health care, far beyond the economy. Not many businessmen are probably listening to this debate as they're too busy working to make a profit so other Americans can be employed.

As we face rising unemployment in a stagnant economy, the Democrats propose a government takeover of health care and of taxes on small business to pay for that government takeover of health care. They have an energy proposal that will cripple American manufacturing and that will enact endless regulations, increasing the cost of making things in America.

On this floor, Democrats have repeatedly confused gross profits and net profits. In the student loan debate, the person before me even confused revenue with net profits. He said he was going to take the revenue from the private companies and use it for government purposes.

From the President on down the party line, there has been a philosophical attack on the concept of profit and capital. Government does not create jobs. It redistributes profits. Profits create jobs. Capital creates jobs. That is why our system is called capitalism. This economy cannot recover if the leadership of our country has no basic understanding of how our economic system works, and we will not have growth by destroying the capitalist system.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, the health care of every American is too important to risk on one gigantic piece of legislation, especially one being written in secret and behind closed doors.

The Democrat plan, or at least the last time any of us saw it, was over

1,000 pages long. It contained hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes—taxes on families earning as little as \$20,000 a year and taxes on small businesses. Even if our national unemployment rate were not 9.8 percent, or over 10 percent in my home State of Michigan, these massive new taxes would create an undue burden on families and on employers. To raise taxes while these Americans are losing their jobs is irresponsible.

To what end do Democrats raise these taxes? What do we get for these tax increases? While the Democrats' health care tax increases go into effect immediately, Democrats delay their so-called "reforms" for years to come. This plan is literally immediate pain for no gain.

Again, the health care of every American is too important to risk on this secretly negotiated 1,000-page bill.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has promised he wouldn't raise taxes on working Americans or go into debt for health care. Both promises are violated by the Democrat plan for health care.

The Congressional Budget Office's score of almost \$1 trillion for the Baucus bill is based on 10 years of revenues but on only 7 years of expenditures. This is a dishonest budget gimmick that hides the true cost.

Is anyone so foolish to believe that a \$1 trillion spending program won't translate into higher taxes and fees on working Americans or into higher deficits or both?

The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has confirmed that just the penalties for not purchasing government-approved coverage will translate into higher taxes on middle class families, in addition to possible jail time—a direct contradiction of President Obama's promise.

When the President's and the Democrats' actions do not match their rhetoric, the American people should know.

THE BACK TO WORK TAX CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, 3 million Americans have lost their jobs since the Democratic stimulus plan passed. It was supposed to create 4 million jobs. National unemployment was at 8 percent when the stimulus passed, and now it's approaching 10 percent. In Florida, in my district, it's over 11 percent, and even in St. Lucie County, it exceeds 15 percent unemployment.

Now is not the time for partisan bickering but, rather, for bipartisan solutions. That's why I've joined with

Democrat and fellow freshman JOHN BOCCIERI from Ohio to introduce a bill to get Americans back to work.

This week, we're introducing the Back to Work Tax Credit Act, a commonsense bill to expand the current work opportunity tax credit to the long-term unemployed.

The time for action is now. My neighbors in Florida and all over America deserve real solutions from Washington, not just talk and further inaction.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I had what was, for me, a very emotional meeting in my office. Representatives from the home health care industry were there, lamenting the fact that tens of billions of dollars will be cut from home health care in this bill that we may have to vote on.

It was emotional for me because I thought of my mother, who, during the last months of her life, would have liked nothing more than to be home, and her family wanted her there. She would have been happier, and probably would have lived longer, but because of limitations of funds and because of regulations, she had to be in an institution. The toughest moment of my life was when I would go there to visit her, and she would say, "I want to go home."

Please, we've got to get it right. This bill doesn't get it right. It's just one more place where it doesn't get it right. Let's get it right before we finish it.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, given 1 minute, what should I talk about?

Should I mention how Federal tax dollars will be used to fund abortion? Should I highlight the fact that tax dollars will go to fund illegal immigration since there is no verification? Should I talk about the thousands of seniors in my district who will lose their Medicare Advantage accounts?

I should, but I will primarily mention what the real plan is here, and that is to use a public option to enact a one-payer system. If you don't believe me, ask Chairman FRANK; Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY; the head of the Democratic National Committee, Howard Dean; and last but not least, President Obama. They've always had that as their stated objective.

HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the concerns my constituents continue to raise in the ongoing health care debate. Rather than listening to me, let's listen to them in their own words.

This is from a woman in Nitro: "While I agree that changes are needed to today's system, I don't believe that a new government-run health insurance plan is the right solution. The government plan will shift costs to employers, which could force more and more businesses to stop offering benefits to their workers. I like my current coverage, and don't want to be forced into a government program."

Or a quote from a gentleman in Scott Depot: "Congress must not let government get between my family and my doctor. Please protect patient freedom, and expand our health care options with real reforms—focused on patients, not on politics."

Or another quote from West Virginia: "I see my country being spent into destruction and my daughter's and grandson's future being thrown away by reckless politicians. What in the world are they trying to do? Myself and other mothers that I am in communication with are watching with great interest to see what is going on with the public health care plan, which we can't afford."

Yes, we want health reform, but we want a thoughtful, bipartisan approach that will result in solid reform.

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HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat majority likes to say this is about choice and competition when, in fact, they know this is about a road to universal, government-run health insurance.

The President says if we get this public option, you will have a choice between your insurance company. If you like it, you can keep it; if you don't, you can go into the public option. What he doesn't say is that after 2 or 3 years of this so-called competition, the private-sector companies won't be there any longer.

The fact is our insurance companies have to make a profit. They have to pay taxes, they have to meet Federal regulations, and if they have a tough year, they have to just eat it and hope they can do better the next year. If they have a couple of tough years, they go out of business.

This new government plan does not have to make a profit, will not have to pay taxes because it's the government, will not have to meet the same regulations because it's the government, and if it has a bad year, it's going to be subsidized by us.