

When President Obama became President, bipartisanship ended. The ARRA—which everybody agrees, the stimulus package, has helped our economy and provided millions of jobs in State and local government and education and other places and provided jobs in the private sector—didn't have a single vote on the Republican side. Not one single vote.

And now on health care, we see not one single vote coming from the Republican side. Doing nothing is not the answer. Everybody knows the health system needs reform.

In my city, the emergency room at Charity Hospital, the public hospital, is about to close. People are having great problems paying their premiums. We need health reform, and we need bipartisanship.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I like to say Washington, D.C., is the world capital of unintended consequences. That seems to be becoming more true every day.

The American people want health care reform that lowers the cost of health insurance and lowers the cost of health care. But a new study produced by Indiana's leading provider of health insurance yesterday shows that the cost of health insurance under the Democratic bill will actually go up for most Americans. That's right. You heard that right.

According to a 238-page study by the actuaries at WellPoint, the Democratic plan, with its mandates and regulations, will actually drive up premiums for small business owners and individuals. Get this, young and healthy consumers will be hardest hit. For young and healthy Americans, their premiums could actually triple in some States. And for a family of four, premiums would more than double.

Now the White House has denounced this, and I know there will be denunciations here on the floor of this study; but the reality is the experts in the industry are pointing out regulations and mandates are going to result in Democrat health care reform meaning higher cost of health insurance to Americans.

P.J. O'Rourke had it right when he said if you think health care is expensive now, wait until it is free.

HEALTH CARE

(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 rise today in strong support of national comprehensive health care reform for all Americans. Our district has the highest number of uninsured adults in the Nation.

Since 1965, Medicare has proven to be one of the great success stories of the Federal Government. It is the second most popular government-run program behind Social Security. That's why I strongly support national health care reform that includes the national public option similar to Medicare.

Some of our Republican colleagues have been quick to say that H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Care Choices Act, endangers traditional Medicare and eliminates the Medicare Advantage program. These assertions are not true. The fact is that H.R. 3200 does not use funds from the Medicare trust fund to pay for reform. Instead, it eliminates waste and fraud within the Medicare program and abolishes the infamous doughnut hole that was created under a Republican Congress in 2003 on the prescription drug plan and strengthens the financial health of Medicare.

In 2003, a Republican Congress created the Medicare Advantage program, and insurance companies have been benefiting ever since.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, while we celebrate Filipino American History Month in October, unfortunately the Philippines has been devastated by multiple typhoons in the past few weeks, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Filipino people.

My father came to the United States from the Philippines to finish medical school. He became a U.S. citizen and lived the American dream. I am aware of at least two other Members of Filipino descent, and I am proud to be a first-generation Filipino American elected to Congress, which is why I co-sponsored House Resolution 780 which recognizes Filipino American History Month.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the economic, cultural, social, and many other contributions of Filipino Americans. Our Nations have been brought together as partners by crucial events throughout history, and even though we are separated by an ocean, the two countries are connected by their long-standing relationship.

Mr. Speaker, may the long-standing relationship between the Philippines and the United States remain strong.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, the American people elect us to serve as innovators and problem solvers. I am an engineer; I see a problem, and I come up with a solution. The Democratic Party is a party of solutions, es-

pecially when it comes to health insurance reform.

So I ask you today, Mr. Speaker, where are the Republican solutions? One hundred and thirty-three days ago, my friends from the Republican side of the aisle said they were going to have a comprehensive plan. Where is that plan, and just what are those solutions?

Democrats have already pledged to make the merged health reform bill public for 72 hours before it is considered on the floor. Will Republicans promise to do the same?

Given the status quo of health insurance coverage in the United States, it appears as if Republicans want to continue to deny coverage for preexisting conditions, force families into bankruptcy because of health care costs, stifle the growth of business, and continue to play politics as usual by defunding insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies. Then they should also be happy to be labeled the party of "no."

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not hurt my patients, many of which are seniors. Somewhere in this Capitol Building, behind closed doors and away from the public view, the Speaker and her liberal allies are rewriting the health care bill that they want. We don't know what is going to be included in that health care reform bill, despite the allegations of my friend Representative BLUMENAUER earlier this morning. But one thing is for certain; it will gut our Medicare program.

Our seniors have suffered tremendously since this recession began. Many of their 401(k)s are now 201(k)s; they have lost 50 percent of their value. Yet, my Democratic colleagues don't think the seniors have paid enough. So they are asking our seniors to foot the bill for health insurance reform by cutting \$500 billion from the Medicare program. These cuts will result in seniors losing benefits under the Medicare Advantage program, such as vision, dental, hearing, and even annual checkups. These cuts will result in longer wait times and even make it harder for senior patients to find a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I say again: health care reform should not hurt our seniors.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is doing health insurance reform this fall. What does that mean for middle income Americans? It means an insurance company can no longer decide to deny you coverage because of a pre-existing condition, or jack up your rates because of preexisting conditions.

It means it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you become sick.

It means insurance companies will no longer be able to place an arbitrary cap on the amount of coverage that you receive.

It means there will be a yearly limit on how much you can be charged for out-of-pocket expenses because no one should go bankrupt because they get sick.

It means 35 to 40 million additional Americans will be covered with health insurance. That is virtually every legal resident of America.

This set of health insurance reforms means that America will finally get the health care coverage that it deserves.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, if you listen to America's senior citizens and ask them what they want with respect to Medicare, I think this is what you hear. Seniors want to continue to have their benefits left alone and be able to choose the doctor and hospital they want. Under our plan, they do.

Seniors want to pay less for their prescription drugs which are rising at a rapid pace. Under our plan, they will.

Seniors want to be sure that their doctors will continue to provide quality care for them because they trust and rely on those doctors so much. Under our bill, doctors will get more of what they richly and fairly deserve. They will get paid what they deserve.

Now, the other side has engaged in a scare campaign to scare America's seniors. I think what most scares America's seniors is the irresponsibility of proposing nothing about America's health care crisis. That is what the minority offers.

We offer a better way, a brighter way, and a safer way for America's seniors.

CHARITABLE GIVING

(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, I rise in opposition to the unwise proposal made by the White House earlier this year to lower the tax deduction for charitable giving. Independent studies have concluded this proposal could result in a drop of as much as \$4 billion in charitable donations.

Charities in the Tampa Bay area have recently indicated the threat of this proposal becoming law has already contributed to a sharp decline in donations, forcing some of them to shut their doors down.

Every year, Americans give hundreds of billions of dollars to charity. In

turn, they provide funding to shelters, food banks, health care clinics, and a host of other charitable programs which benefit the needy. During this recession, their services are needed more than ever. Limiting charitable contributions is the wrong course of action and will end up hurting those who need it the most, particularly as we approach the holidays.

□ 1030

OLDER AMERICANS LACK HEALTH INSURANCE

(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, it has been 133 days since the Republicans promised to present their health insurance reform legislation, and we still have no alternative plan from them.

The fastest growth group of uninsured Americans is older Americans age 50 to 64. Saying "no" to health insurance reform hurts millions of Americans who lack health insurance.

There was a 36 percent increase in the number of older Americans without insurance from 2000 to 2009. It used to be if you worked most of your life here in America you could retire to someplace warm and sunny like my home State of Florida. There were 7.1 million uninsured people age 50 to 64 in 2007. How can we allow more than 7 million Americans over 50—many who have worked their entire life—to go without health insurance? They certainly can't afford to retire when they're worried about how to pay for their medical bills.

Republicans point to a bunch of different solutions offered by their Members, including dismantling or privatizing Medicare. So which plan do they stand behind? Americans deserve to know.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we are entering the final stages of crafting a health care bill that gives the American people what they want—more choice in health care options, lower cost for families and small businesses, and insurance that's fair to American families once again.

We've worked long days and nights here in Washington to craft a bill that addresses the challenges that people in Connecticut and across this country face. And the American people have been able to read our bills and monitor the debate on television and on the Internet and be able to interact with us when we come back home. Meanwhile, where have our Republican colleagues been? Sitting on the sidelines, talking

about solutions, but sharing nothing with the public. And they have kept us waiting for the last 133 days without a bill.

Well, it's time for Republicans to get in the game because health care struggles of the American people aren't getting any easier, and they can't afford to wait.

IT'S TIME TO END "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend our former colleague and current Secretary of the Army, John McHugh. He rightly stated last weekend that the United States Army—the proudest and most professional fighting force on Earth—is fully capable of accepting openly gay and lesbian Americans into service and ending the unworkable and unconscionable policy of "don't ask, don't tell."

We have all heard the tired arguments of why all Americans who choose to serve should not be allowed to serve, but those arguments belong to an intolerant past. The men and women who make up today's Armed Forces are modern, highly informed Americans who have grown up in an era more accepting of individual differences. As Secretary McHugh said, "The Army has a big history of taking on similar issues with predictions of doom and gloom that did not play out."

At long last, the United States military is ready to be representative of all the people of the United States. It's time now for Congress to act and send legislation to the President asking him to end "don't ask, don't tell" once and for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1929) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the amendment is as follows: