

of care with better health outcomes for all Americans; and the containment of rapidly rising costs of health care.

The status quo is unaffordable and unsustainable. Passing health care reform benefits all of us: families, seniors, businesses, and the Nation. I look forward to voting for this historic legislation and meeting the goals of health care reform for all Americans. Now is the time to act.

□ 1315

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on September 12, taxpayers sent an unequivocal message to lawmakers that smaller government, limited regulation, responsible spending, and keeping government out of people's lives are principles that too many in Washington need to be reminded of.

Hundreds of Texans took to the streets of Washington, D.C., to protest Big Government and the devastating policies the Obama administration and this Congress are pursuing. Their voices were heard and we had better not forget what they say.

Now we need everyone's voice more than ever as we are asked to pass a \$1.2 trillion government takeover of our health care system. Through town hall meetings and the thousands of e-mails and letters we receive each week, my constituents have been clear: They don't like this bill.

It's now Congress's responsibility to listen to our districts and respond, representing the constituents who sent us here. They're speaking loud and clear—and they expect a response.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, for the past 6 months I have talked with my constituents in southern Nevada about the need for health care reform that lowers cost, improves access, increases choice, and strengthens Medicare. I have solicited input from my constituents by sending them health care surveys, encouraging them to share their health care stories, and holding Congress on the Corner.

From roundtable discussions with doctors, providers, and small business owners, to town halls, I have listened to the concerns Nevadans have about our current health care system as well as the proposed reforms. One thing is clear: The status quo just is unacceptable.

The legislation introduced in the House last week requires a comprehensive examination, and I will continue to carefully review all aspects of the bill. But I'm pleased that the legisla-

tion includes important provisions that will help Nevada's seniors, young adults, women, and small businesses.

From ending discrimination based on preexisting conditions to strengthening Medicare by reducing waste and closing the doughnut hole, there are a number of very positive aspects of this bill which I strongly support. It's time to give them a serious look.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the American people have said that the number one thing they're concerned about with regard to health care is the cost of health care. The Speaker's 1,990-page government takeover of health care raises the cost of insurance for American families and it will add to our already exploding debt.

The cost of the Speaker's bill is now at \$1.3 trillion and counting. It's a debt that will be paid for by our kids and our grandkids. And, to make matters worse, it will increase taxes, impose job-killing mandates, and cut seniors' Medicare benefits.

There's a better way. Republicans have outlined a plan to lower cost and expand access at a price our Nation can afford. This includes letting families buy health insurance across State lines; allowing small businesses to pool and offer health insurance to their employees at much lower cost, just like big businesses and unions can today; giving States the tools to create innovative reforms that lower costs; and ending junk lawsuits that contribute to higher health care costs.

Given all that's at stake, the American people deserve to see the Republicans' smart, fiscally responsible plans debated here on the House floor side-by-side with the Speaker's 1,990-page bill.

I hope we will see that debate and vote as soon as possible.

HEALTH REFORM AND THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I can't stand here today and tell you that this legislation will solve every health care problem we face as a Nation, but I can tell you this. There's 460,000 Nevadans that have no health insurance at all. In my district alone, this bill will provide coverage for 163,000 of my fellow Nevadans.

It's not just the uninsured that will benefit. In Las Vegas, more than 200,000 households will receive credits to make insurance more affordable and over 16,000 small businesses will be provided with a tax credit to make it easier for them to provide coverage to their employees.

The bill improves coverage for seniors by closing the doughnut hole, eliminating copays for preventive services, and extending the solvency of the Medicare program for another 5 years. It eliminates preexisting conditions as a reason to deny coverage. It lifts the lifetime limits. I have 10-year-old children who are juvenile diabetics in my office that have already exceeded their lifetime caps. This bill eliminates that.

The current health care system is unsustainable.

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. The American people want health care reform that lowers the cost of health insurance rather than increasing the cost of government, but it looks like that's exactly what they're getting in the Pelosi health care bill.

Here are the numbers: 1,990 pages; \$1.2 trillion in the Pelosi plan in new Federal spending over the next 10 years; \$729.5 billion in new tax increases. It's just extraordinary.

Within the confines of the bill, 43 entitlement programs are created or expanded; 111 additional offices, bureaus, commissions, programs, and bureaucracies; and this legislation uses the mandatory legal language—the word “shall”—3,425 times. And this isn't a government takeover of health care? Give me a break.

The Pelosi health care plan is a freight train of big government, higher taxes, and mandates—and it must be opposed. The American people deserve a better plan.

You can go to healthcare.gov and start getting the details of a plan that will lower the cost of health insurance instead of growing the size of government.

WHERE IS THE REPUBLICAN HEALTH REFORM BILL?

(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 will be interesting to go to that Web site and find what is the so-called Republican beginning of a proposal, because 139 days ago the Republican leadership promised to introduce their own health reform bill and yet we are still waiting.

Since the mysterious Republican plan hasn't been introduced, the American people can't really see what's in it. It's all being written behind closed doors. What little we do know of what they are planning should bring a smile to the faces of insurance company CEOs.

Their leader, Mr. BOEHNER, admitted the other day that their collection of bills does not end discrimination based

on preexisting conditions. Nowhere in their collection of bills do they help more Americans afford health care. Nowhere in their collection of bills do they end discrimination from insurance companies' practice of dropping coverage if you get sick.

Four months ago, Democrats made public our health care reform proposal by posting it online for anyone to see. Since then, there have been multiple committee hearings during which the Republicans had ample opportunity to debate the bill and offer amendments.

Republicans won't even let the public see their bill. What are they hiding? Will they include Representative BROWN's proposal to privatize Medicare? How about dismantling the entire Medicare system?

Americans deserve to know.

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. This bill is a disaster for American families—it allows bureaucrats to make important medical decisions instead of doctors and patients.

As a wife, mother, and caregiver to my late husband, I—like 85 percent of women in America—am the primary care decision-maker in my home. I was for him as well as for my children. We need a health care system that provides quality, affordable health care so that we can have peace of mind in knowing our families are well taken care of.

Unfortunately, the bill that we will have before us later this week is one that empowers government bureaucrats and undermines a woman's ability to make the best health care choices for her and her family.

The bill creates 111 new Federal bureaucracies and 43 new entitlement programs. Instead of reforming health care, this bill expands government. Health insurance premiums will rise, taxes will increase, and seniors will lose many Medicare benefits.

When the Democrats wrote this health care bill, they not only left Republicans out of the process, but they left out consumers.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, Clara Peller demands health care reform now. Twenty-five years ago, nobody knew who Clara Peller was, but she soon became famous because she was the one in those Wendy's ads who introduced the famous phrase, "Where's the beef?" And for our friends on the Republican side of the aisle, that's the question we would all like to know: "Where's the bill?"

If you're hearing so much conversation about the Democratic health care

bill, there's a very good reason for that. There is no Republican bill, despite promises month after month after month to reveal what that bill would contain. There's no CBO score of the Republican bill.

So how do we know that there's a bill that's going to affect Americans? Well, we know that bill will be mostly about preserving the status quo. And I would like my friends to tell my constituent, Hannah Rodriguez, who has a cleft palate and has been waiting years for her parents to save up the money for her corrective medical procedure because it's considered cosmetic surgery under her current policy, why she should wait longer for health care reform.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Last week, my colleagues on the other side unveiled the latest version of their plan for government-controlled health care that, according to CBO, will cost \$1.2 trillion. Simply put, that's \$2.2 million of taxpayer money for every single word in this bill.

This 2,000-page bill creates 111 new government programs and is full of tax increases and government mandates.

This bill is bad for patients, bad for doctors, bad for seniors, bad for small businesses, and terrible for our economy.

This bill will raise taxes on the American people, cut Medicare for seniors by half a trillion dollars, add to the already out-of-control Federal deficit, and will leave personal medical decisions to bureaucrats in Washington instead of families.

Mr. Speaker, there's another way. We believe health care reform begins by bringing all stakeholders—patients, doctors, citizens and hospitals—to the table where everyone has equal input. Our plan will lower cost, increase access, and improve the quality of care your family will receive.

HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, in America, if you get overcharged on a telephone or cable bill, you have recourse to get your money back. If a mechanic does an unnecessary repair, there are agencies that can help you. On the government level, we work to defend consumers and guard against markets being too concentrated. That was one of the goals when I chaired the Consumer Protection Committee in the California State assembly.

And yet when it comes to health care, strong consumer protections just don't exist and Americans are suffering because no one is looking out for them. That's why the Consumers Union,

which Americans trust for information on major purchases, calls our health care system a "consumer crisis" and endorses our efforts to reform the system.

Once the bill's provisions take effect, no insurance company can deny or drop your coverage. Every insurance company would have to provide a minimum set of benefits, including prescription drugs, hospital care, and mental health. This reform will give Americans the reliability and security they deserve.

□ 1330

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, Politico reported last week that the Democrat health care reform legislation has more pages than War and Peace, and nearly five times as many words as the Torah, costing over \$2 million per word.

The Republican Conference reports that over 100 new Federal bureaucracies are created in the bill. The Wall Street Journal Opinion Page stated that "the bill may be the worst piece of post-New Deal legislation ever introduced."

America deserves better, and the American people demand more from their leaders on something that is so important to every American family. There is a better way to maintain care for those with health insurance, while decreasing the number of uninsured Americans.

We should start with some common-sense reform, such as prohibiting insurers from excluding preexisting conditions, allowing insurers to offer plans across State lines, enacting tort reform, and allowing small businesses to pool together to purchase health plans for their employees.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late for us to work together to craft responsible legislation and decrease costs.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we are in the final days here in the House debating health care reform that will lower costs for families and businesses and give people more choice. We are closer than ever to delivering what people have been clamoring for: access to lifesaving health care.

And last night we learned a little more about this mythical Republican alternative. We learned that the Republicans are going to potentially propose some collection of bullet points that deliver the status quo for people who have a preexisting condition, for people who are under the threat of losing their coverage if they get sick. And