

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.

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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

for the millions of Americans who will not be able to afford health care insurance, this Republican plan says sorry, you are out of luck.

This Republican plan that exists somewhere out in the ether today might be good for a fantasy movie, but it is not offering anything for those of us that live in the real world. Because here in the real world, people get sick and live paycheck by paycheck and can't afford the current status quo.

Let's give people real reform, not fantasy reform that leaves people right where they started.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, during the August work period, I had the privilege of visiting many of the plants and factories in my district. At one plant, a worker approached me and said he didn't understand what we were doing here in Congress. He said he had to have a job that put a roof over his family and food on the table. He is worried about health care, but the first two took priority.

People back home get it. They ask very direct questions about health care. How are we going to pay for it? Will it cost more than I pay now? Will I have the same coverage and doctor? Will it cost more jobs? How much more in taxes will I pay?

The Congressional Budget Office scores Speaker PELOSI's bill at over \$1 trillion. New taxes on small businesses and individuals will run over \$729 billion.

Being close to the Canadian border, I have been approached by Canadian doctors who are now practicing in Ohio. They can't understand why the Democrats are taking this course. They tell me this same thing: Why do you think we came to the United States?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, reforming health care insurance is the focus of this Congress this fall. And what does health insurance reform mean for middle-income Americans? It means an insurance company can no longer decide to deny you coverage or jack up your rates because of a preexisting condition. It means it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you get sick. It means that insurance companies will no longer be able to place an arbitrary cap on the amount of coverage you have in a given year or in a lifetime. 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 broke if they get sick.

What this means for middle-income Americans is they will no longer be ground between the roulette wheel of

health or sickness and the machinations of the insurance industry. What health insurance means is that millions of Americans who are insured today will have more security and stability.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill hits States when they are hurting the most by mandating a \$34 billion expansion of Medicaid. I served in State government and have helped write budgets, and I know firsthand this expansion creates a serious problem for Kentucky's already stretched resources and will leave fewer dollars available for our schools and universities.

Last week, Dr. James Ramsey, president of the University of Louisville and a renowned professor of public finance, predicted the next budget period in Kentucky will be "a bloodbath" and said a high price will be paid for inadequate funding of all State programs.

Phil Bredeesen, the Democratic Governor of Tennessee and a health care expert, said he is most concerned with the financial impact on the States, and he said "this is the mother of all unfunded mandates."

There are many reforms that will make health care more affordable and accessible without giving huge debts to our children. Forcing State governments to look to our schools and universities for the money to meet this mandate is not acceptable. Our children deserve better.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the revised Affordable American Health Care Act. We need comprehensive health care reform for people like Mary in my district.

When her husband retired from his job, they both lost their health insurance. They had COBRA for 18 months, but it ran out. Mary had to look for alternative coverage. Unfortunately, she has a preexisting condition. Mary, Mr. Speaker, has rheumatoid arthritis. She suffers and has had countless rejections from one insurance company to another and it has been very difficult for her.

Under the revised Affordable Health Care for America Act, Mary and other Americans would not suffer from preexisting conditions. Finally, as early as next year, they would receive fair health care that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3962.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3962 is almost 2,000 pages long. In a bill that long, you expect lots of things to be opposed to, and I am. Here is a short, partial list of some of the things I am against.

I am against 5.5 million people losing their jobs. I am against 114 million people losing their private health insurance as a result of this legislation. I am against a new entitlement that creates \$1 trillion in new spending that we can't afford. I am against stripping \$500 billion out of Medicare funding that would otherwise go to Medicare. I am against \$729.5 billion in new taxes over the next 10 years on Americans.

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing I am for, and that is for starting over. Scrap this monstrosity. Let's start over with real health care reform, not this health care takeover.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, even though insurance companies make money not providing health care, the so-called reform bill gives so much power and money to the insurance companies that we are giving far too much for the few benefits which the bill may confer.

The insurance companies get at least another 26 million new customers. They will receive at least another \$50 billion in new revenue. They will be able to raise premiums 25 percent even though in each of the last four consecutive years the industry raised premiums by double digits.

As long as there are for-profit insurance companies, there will be no effective way to protect consumers against ever-escalating premiums, copays, and deductibles unless the insurance companies know that people at the State level will always have a choice to reject the insurance companies and establish a single payer, not-for-profit system.

That is why the Kucinich amendment should be put back in the health bill, not just to protect the rights of States to pursue single payer, but to protect the rights of consumers to be free of the economic death grip of the insurance companies.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE CUTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Obama promised Americans that under his health care reform bill they would be able to keep the coverage they currently have. Unfortunately, the Pelosi