

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the American people continue to reject the notion that when it comes to health care, government knows best. Except this Congress and this Speaker of the House reject that. They say government can do whatever it darn well pleases. So we are presented with a 1,990-page bill that redefines health care and one-sixth of our economy.

Hundreds of millions of Americans will be forced out of their current plans. Medicare cuts will mean fewer benefits to seniors. Bureaucrats will restrict health care services. Taxpayers will fund abortion. Illegal immigrants will receive taxpayer-funded benefits. Federal and State taxes will go up as a result, and furthermore, the cost to health care will continue to rise.

There is a better way, a different plan than the Pelosi health care bill. That is what I will support. It will control the cost of health care by capping medical malpractice lawsuits and help individuals get the type of health care that they truly deserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. This bill represents tireless negotiation, compromise, and input from Americans all across the country. We have been trying to reform our health care system since Harry Truman's Presidency, so this bill by no means represents brand new ideas; rather, it has been a work in progress for decades.

Attempts to reform our health care system in the past have failed because of false claims that this is socialized medicine. And, of course, these are the same arguments that the bill's opponents are making today. But it won't work this time because the American people are tired of unaffordable premiums, of unfairly losing coverage, and the fine print that prevents them from getting the care they need. It gives the power back to the patient by creating a more transparent, more competitive health insurance market.

In a country as wealthy as ours, no one should have to face losing their life or seriously compromising their health because they cannot access, cannot afford, or have been denied health care coverage.

REFORMING HEALTH CARE IN AN UNDERSTANDABLE WAY

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

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, before we debate the 1,990-page health care bill that my colleagues and I are all trying to read this week, let me share

with you how this bill defines a check-up, known in this legislation as a "primary care service." I will quote from page 1,056.

"The term 'primary care services' means evaluation and management services, without regard to the specialty of the physician furnishing the services, that are procedure codes (for services covered under title XVIII) for services in the category designated Evaluation and Management in the Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (established by the Secretary under section 1848(c)(5) as of December 31, 2009, and as subsequently modified by the Secretary)."

Now, that is a checkup. And all that section of the bill really says is we are going to define it in the future.

If I have time, Mr. Speaker, I try to read every bill, and as this legislation goes, it is pretty darn complicated. But what we need to accomplish is very simple: We need to lower the costs of health care in order to improve access to the system. It doesn't take 1,990 pages. We could do it in 19 pages. And we ought to do it in terms that the American public can understand.

DEMAND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ABORTION BE BANNED IN ANY HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the administration and congressional Democrats are currently wheeling and dealing behind closed doors attempting a government takeover of our Nation's health care system. Additionally, the Democrat scheme provides a back door to allow for the government funding of abortion.

Since 1976, Federal funds have been barred from being used for abortions, and Democrats are refusing to continue this policy. Some of my colleagues will tell you their plan doesn't fund abortion, yet, on page 171, section 303 states that at least one plan participating through the new government-run exchange must cover abortion services. In addition, the bill contains explicit language saying "nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing" the public option from paying for all elective abortions.

The public option will be a Federal program using Federal funds. The American taxpayers will be forced to send part of their hard-earned dollars to Washington every year to end the life of an unborn child.

I call on my colleagues in this House to demand that Federal funding for abortion is banned in any and all forms of health care funding.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, isn't it ironic that as many Americans are celebrating the freedom to choose by casting votes across America on this election day, the House will begin consideration of a bill that threatens the freedom to choose their own health care plans.

The Pelosi bill will allow government takeover, raises taxes on hardworking Americans and small businesses, and get this, takes away half a trillion dollars worth of health care from our seniors. It includes a tax on wheelchairs, hearing aids, and pacemakers.

This is not the right solution to improve our health care system. What we need is real improvement, and that is let's lower the costs; real medical malpractice reform; lower the risk pools by allowing small businesses to band together; allow people to purchase insurance across State lines; allow States to create high-risk pools that lower the cost and provide coverage for uninsured and underinsured.

We must work together to get this done for the good of Americans across this country.

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, when we come to real health reform, we need to take cost out, not add it, as this monstrosity of a bill does. There is consensus in the House for real reform that would reengineer the Center for Medicare Services to bring it into this century, provide real private market reform, and end junk lawsuits once and for all against our doctors.

But Speaker PELOSI permits none of this, squelching over 45 real health care reform bills that have been introduced. Instead, the Pelosi bill is based on a job-killing \$800 billion tax on small businesses that the Obama administration says will cost 5 million jobs, cuts senior benefits by half a trillion dollars doing so-called reform on the backs of seniors, and creates 111 new government agencies. That is not reform.

Let's stop this bill, go back to square one, and give the American people what they are demanding, which is the protection of their health freedom and real reform today.

TAKING AWAY FREEDOM TO CHOOSE YOUR HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, freedom to choose your own health care plan is what is at stake here. The drumbeat for entitlement, for government control of health care, for a health choice commissioner who will decide himself

essential benefits, for setting a precedent that will devolve into a rationing of medicine through politics, this is driven by an appetite for a government-run economy that is blind to the consequences.

One of those consequences is a \$1.3 trillion cost in this bill. Another is the job-killing mandates and the cuts to senior Medicare plans, including a gutting of Medicare Advantage that is in this bill. The cost of the tax increases on business. How high can we stack these taxes? We have one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world. We will see the consequence in higher unemployment.

Should health care be nationalized, medical rationing is inevitable, and we will see the adverse effects on economic growth and opportunity, unfortunately, that will be left.

ENACT STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT ON HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each year, Planned Parenthood kills more than 300,000 children by abortion, yet yesterday another Planned Parenthood director resigned over abortion. Abby Johnson, director of a clinic in College Station, Texas, said she had a change of heart while watching an ultrasound of an actual abortion in real-time.

Self-described as "extremely pro-choice" but now pro-life, she said she knew it was time to quit in September when she watched an unborn child "crumble" as the baby was vacuumed, dismembered, and destroyed.

Many, including and especially self-described extremely pro-choice Americans like Abby Johnson, are beginning to recognize the ultra-ugly truth about abortion—it kills babies and wounds their mothers. Thus, we must protect both victims of abortion by enacting the Stupak-Pitts amendment to the health care bill.

I appeal to the Democrat leadership, make the Stupak amendment in order, and, please, no phony compromises, because there is nothing benign or compassionate about abortion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS). Members should heed the gavel.

□ 1445

QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of

quality, affordable health care for all Americans. And finally we are actually going to get it done for the American people.

For 139 days my friends on the other side of the aisle have promised health care reform, and now we think they have a bill but we haven't really seen it, and it's not real reform. So let's talk about what we're going to do for the American people and not just what is wrong and saying "no."

We're going to end discrimination for preexisting medical conditions. If you have experienced domestic violence or you've had an underlying condition, you will be able to get health care for yourself and your family. You won't be able to be dropped because you're sick. You won't have copays and deductibles for preventative care. This is what health care reform really means for the American people.

And it's going to be affordable. It will provide credits for folks if your income doesn't quite get up there or you work for a small employer and the employer can't quite afford health care.

We want to make sure that all the American people have the ability to achieve quality, affordable health care.

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, I have reviewed this bill, and it is a jobs killer.

Before I came to Congress, I was a small business person. I know what is to start small businesses and to run them, and I know how difficult it is to sustain those jobs.

This Congress, the Democrat majority, rather than trying to find ways to help the people who are struggling with unemployment right now and to help small businesses create jobs, is finding a way to hinder them by penalizing employers who can't afford to provide health insurance for their employees.

If we want to make sure they have access to health insurance, let's find ways to allow association health plans, to allow people to buy health insurance across State lines to get costs down, to pass tort reform, and do other meaningful things that make access more practicable.

But first and foremost, let's don't kill jobs in an economy that's already struggling with 10 percent unemployment. And that's what this bill does.

It's time for this Congress to get out of the way, to stop job-killing and start trying to help small businesses create new jobs.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, someone with a lot of time on his hands, or

more likely somebody with a pretty good search engine, found that the 2,000-page Pelosi health care bill uses the word "shall" more than 3,000 times. Now, that's an average of more than 1.5 times per page.

It seems about the only page where the word "shall" is not used is the page that states that Members of Congress "may" enroll in the government-run insurance option. No "shall" here, just "may." In other words, what's good for the country isn't necessarily good for Congress.

I'd encourage anyone who is watching or listening out there to call the Speaker and ask her why. If this government-run insurance option is so good, why aren't Members of Congress required to enroll in it as well?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we're the people's House. The other body is called the House of Lords, but we are here to represent the people who sent us here.

I quote a great speech from Governor John Connally of Texas when he was first elected Governor back in 1963. I served in the Texas Senate. I was in the crowd as he was speaking to a group of school board trustees, telling them to run their own schools, to make their own decisions, not the Nation, not the State, but they should make the decisions. They're there just like you're here.

He told a story about ancient mariners that were adrift, shipwrecked off the coast of South America. Unknown to them, their raft had drifted into the fresh waters of the mouth of the Amazon River. They prayed for help.

Ship ahoy, rang out their cry. There came a voice from the waters far, Drop your buckets where you are.

Don't vote to dim the lives of future generations, of future taxpayers. This bill is a generation killer; the victims are our grandchildren.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, health reform is a moral and national imperative.

As a physician, my experience in treating uninsured patients at public hospitals teaches me that empowering patients is the best way to lower costs and improve patients' health. Patients are the best guardians of health care dollars. Real reform empowers patients to make wise decisions for their wallets and their health.

Unfortunately, this bill introduced last week empowers government, not patients. And this 2,000-page bill, and this is half of it, a trillion dollars, is concentrating power in Washington,