

so bad that the only solution people can see is for the government to take it all over. But a famous man once wrote that there is a simple solution to every human problem, one that is neat, plausible and wrong. This bill is the socialist approach, and all it will do over the long haul is make a bad situation even worse.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. REHBERG. Supporters of Speaker PELOSI's 2,000-page government takeover of health care are fast to cite opinion polls in their favor and dismiss anyone who objects if they have legitimate concerns. However, they are much slower to demonstrate the coverage of their convictions by holding public town hall meetings. Americans have a right to be heard, so I have hosted 17 town hall meetings in Montana since August. This weekend in Billings, more than 500 people came to voice their concerns. They weren't there at the request of the insurance industry. Out in rural America, people are speaking out against this bill. I heard them loud and clear at my listening sessions. It is time for the rest of Congress to listen, too. Our authority comes from the people, and we must not ignore them.

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HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, there are people all across this country who are very worried that Congress is about to do something that will do great harm to the quality of their lives and will change America forever. They want us to do something to bring down the cost of health insurance. They want us to do something to make it easier for the uninsured and the hard to insure to get coverage. But, they want no part of a 1,990-page bill with 111 new Federal programs and offices, with new taxes, with Medicare cuts, all at a cost of more than \$1 trillion.

The Democratic majority may be able to twist enough arms to ram this monstrosity through the House, I don't know. But they are leaving the American people behind. This is no way to deal with an issue as important as health care. This bill must be stopped so real, commonsense reform can begin.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the voices of my constituents in Virginia's First District to

the House floor. Here are the words of some of my constituents.

Elizabeth from Williamsburg said, "Please consider small business owners when evaluating the health care proposals. My business ends up with an 8 percent profit margin, so an 8 percent of payroll contribution penalty rate would be significant."

John from Newport News says, "Over the 20 years I managed health care plans for corporations, managing cost increases was paramount not only for my employer, but also for my employees. I know how hard I worked at managing health care expense and have zero confidence that the government can handle the job. The bottom line is that more government involvement in our health care system is not the answer."

Sandra from Seaford said, "I am not in favor of a government-run health care bill. I want to choose my own health insurance. I am opposed to passing a health care bill for the sake of passing a bill. I am opposed to a health care bill that will cost trillions of dollars over the next 10 years, and I am not in favor of being penalized because I do not take part in a government health care bill."

Mr. Speaker, they have said it better than I could.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see you in the Chair again, and I think you are getting the short straw in your caucus when we give these 1-minute speeches.

It is always nice, Mr. Speaker, when the veil lifts and you finally get to understand something. I have been puzzled since 2007 when the Democrats became the majority party in the House of Representatives, when gas prices went from \$2.22 to \$4.14 over the summer. I was puzzled why they passed such meaningful legislation as National Train Day and so forth and so on.

But two that caught my eye was the bill honoring cats and dogs and then the Monkey Safety Act. I thought they were chastened in this Congress, as we saw the unemployment rate go from this level to this level, and if I had a bigger chart, it could keep on going up.

But again, there is sort of a theme. While people are losing their jobs in America, they again passed the Monkey Safety Act and the Shark Conservation Act. I am thinking to myself, What's their fascination with animals? And it wasn't until I read Speaker PELOSI's government takeover of health care bill, if you go over to page 1,255, it makes veterinary students eligible for up to \$283 million in Federal scholarship and student loan forgiveness.

What's with the animals?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair asks all Members to heed the gavel.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, we do need health reform in this country, but not this plan. We need a plan that uses common sense to fix what is broken and keep what is good. Eighty-five percent of Americans have health insurance, and 85 percent of those people are satisfied with what they have.

President Obama has said over and over that no one will lose their insurance if they are happy with it. And just a couple of weeks ago he said that seniors on Medicare Advantage will have to go on regular Medicare, and that means 38,000 seniors in my district will lose their current Medicare plan.

I have many small business owners who have come up to me and said they will be forced to abandon their current plans and go on the public option, not because they want to but because, if they don't, it will hurt their businesses.

Finally, on page 94, it will prohibit families and businesses from changing plans unless the plan has been approved by the health czar. That is not freedom. This is not the plan that America wants. Let's vote this bill down.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in South America there is a tenacious parasitic plant that attaches itself to trees. As it climbs to the top of the tree canopy seeking the light, the plant thrives. But eventually, in the end, it kills the tree.

That is what an unfunded mandate by the Federal Government does to States. Putting more people onto Medicaid arguably is a good thing that takes people off the roles of the uninsured. But the Pelosi health care bill will cost all of the States an added \$34 billion in new burdens.

My Pennsylvania colleagues and I warned our Governor back when we thought people at 133 percent of the poverty level would be eligible for Medicaid. That would have cost the State \$2.2 billion over 10 years. Now we are looking at those at 150 percent of poverty level. That will add 15 million to the Medicaid program nationwide.

Tennessee Democratic Governor Phil Bredesen called it "the mother of all unfunded mandates."

We may soon be saying our prayers for many of our States, when a program intended to help poor women,

children, and the disabled turns out to be the death knell for a number of State budgets.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the Democrats finally unveil their manager's amendment later this week, we will have 72 hours to look at it and decide whether we want to vote for it. But one thing we know for sure, it will cost at least \$1 trillion; more than we are spending today on health care, more than we are spending in the Federal budget. One trillion dollars over 10 years.

As I look around the gallery, Mr. Speaker, I see many folks about my age, but I also see some constituents who are young, just getting started. Do they want to spend an average of \$10,000 a person right now if this bill becomes law? I think not.

Republicans have a better idea. We will unveil our Republican leadership alternative later today or tomorrow. It will actually save money. And by the way, it will cover preexisting conditions. And by the way, it won't have all of the mandates. And by the way, it won't have the health choices administrator telling us what is good for us rather than our doctor telling us what is good for us.

Vote against the Democratic plan and vote for the Republican alternative.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, if there is one common denominator in Congress this year, it is the substitution of government for the individual. With the stimulus, the multiple bailouts, cap-and-tax, and now health care, instead of you making the decision, the government makes it for you.

We have seen time after time, when you substitute a government-run program for individual choice, the cost goes up and the quality goes down. When it comes to health care, there is nothing more important than quality and choice. Given the choice, I will always place my faith in the individual, not in the government, and this time is no different.

The American economy is the world's largest. It is three times larger than the Japanese, our closest competitor. It is larger than the economies of Japan, China, Germany, and Great Britain combined. We got there through innovation, choice, competition, and individual initiative and responsibility, not government control and management. Let's keep it that way.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when I graduated from medical school at the Medical College of Georgia, I swore to do no harm. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care insurance bill will destroy America. It will destroy the quality of care for everyone. It will destroy jobs. In fact, experts tell us 5.5 million people will lose their jobs. It will destroy private insurance. In fact, it is estimated 114 million people will be forced off their private insurance under a government policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to destroy our economy and cost over \$1 trillion. It will destroy our States' budgets, and it is going to destroy our own home budgets for everyone through higher taxes and through higher private insurance premiums. It will destroy our children's and grandchildren's future.

Mr. Speaker, we the people in America must demand that we destroy the Pelosi health care insurance bill.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the amazing thing with this whole insurance health care reform debate is we could fix health care. We could do it in this country. It is not that complicated. We could make it so we could buy health care across State lines. We could make it competitive and bring down prices and make sure that everybody has access to health care. But the health care problems in this country that are fixable are like a leaky faucet in somebody's house. This Congress could fix that leaky faucet, but we're not going to do that. The Pelosi health care bill says, let's burn down the house. Let's just burn it down. Forget about fixing it. Let's tear it down and we will replace it with some monstrosity that will not resemble a house like what we had prior to it.

We don't need to burn down the house. We need to fix that leaky faucet. We could fix health care in this country. We could make health care affordable, accessible, and cheap. We don't need to burn down the house, which is what the Pelosi health care bill does.

The Republicans will have a much better alternative to this which is being unveiled today. That is what we need to vote for.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, "The reforms I am proposing will not apply to

those who are here illegally." These words were spoken by the President on September 9 right at this podium. He pointed out that he was proposing to insure 30 million, not the 47 million that we hear today.

Was the difference between the two the fact that the President committed not to provide benefits to illegals in this country?

The sad fact about the situation is that the proposal that PELOSI has given us is one that does not guarantee to the American people that those illegally in the country will get benefits in this country even though they are violating our law. Why has PELOSI abandoned the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program, the SAVE Act, is because she wants to include that 17 million that are here illegally.

The commitment the President has made at this podium should be kept by this House, both sides of the aisle. So stand by the SAVE Act. It is a system that works. It is functional. It has been the standard. Why abandon it now?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, this may be the most important vote, the most important debate we will ever engage in as Members of Congress. We are at a turning point in this country. Under this liberal Congress, this liberal President, Congress has moved to take over so many aspects of American life, there is not much left.

The one piece they really want control over is our health care. From cradle to grave, the government will decide what procedures you get, how much the doctor will be paid, and when the doctor can do it. That puts the doctor in control of our health care system.

At a time of record debt and deficit, with a deficit over a trillion and a half dollars, with a national debt over \$12 trillion, The Wall Street Journal editorial—and if you don't read anything else, I would encourage people to read yesterday's Wall Street Journal editorial which points out in an analysis you can document, they have carefully researched PELOSI's health care bill which she unwrapped last Thursday, may well be the worst piece of post-New Deal legislation ever introduced. In a rational political world, this 1,900-page runaway train would have been derailed months ago.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, lacking a collaborative process, we unfortunately must simply oppose the Pelosi health