

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

care bill. This bill has within it a public option to which Members of Congress aren't subject. It has a comingling of taxpayer funds for abortion services, tax increases, benefit cuts, especially for Medicare Advantage. And, in leaving the \$245 billion doctor fix out of the bill and put in a separate bill, it really makes a mockery of what the President said here when he said not one dime will be added to the deficit.

The bill also has no appreciable attempt at medical malpractice reform and actually tries to avoid State limits imposed by State legislatures.

Mr. Speaker, this bill simply must be voted down, we start over and try to find a collaborative process, and come up with something that will work for America.

□ 1530

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. A Supreme Court Justice once wrote; "The Constitution protects us from our own best intentions. It divides power precisely so that we may resist the temptation to concentrate power in one location as an expedient solution to the crisis of the day." Now, he wasn't talking specifically about the health care bill, but there has never been an effort to try and concentrate power as an expedient solution to the crisis of the day as the Pelosi health care bill.

We are not the only ones working on this issue; States are as well. Massachusetts has a system, it's pricey, but they seem to enjoy it, but it wouldn't meet the needs of Utah. Utah has a reformed system that's based on our demographics. It wouldn't fly in Boston. The problem is, if the Pelosi bill were to pass, all of these State efforts would be stopped.

There are things we can do to help the costs come down: Tort reform, allowing interstate competition and block grants to States for high-risk pooling. Those things would be good if indeed we were allowed to do them, but they're not part of the Pelosi bill. All this does is concentrate power in Washington and would, to paraphrase P.J. O'Rourke, have the same effect as giving alcohol and the keys to the car to a teenage boy.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, the first month I was practicing law, I had a client that came into my office and he gave me a single sheet of paper. It said, "Do everything we talked about. And remember, money is no object." I took that sheet and I went into the managing partner's office and I showed it

to him. And he smiled and he said, Randy, the reason money is no object is because he doesn't have any money; he spends his father's money. And then he looked in his drawer and he pulled out a sheet of paper and it said this: "I'm tired of his reckless spending. Be on notice, he is hereby cut off. Enough is enough."

Mr. Speaker, if you don't read anything else in this bill, please read the section between the lines that says this, Money is no object. And the reason it's no object is because they're not spending their money. They're spending our senior citizens' money, our jobs' money, and the money of our grandchildren. And I believe the American people are sending them a single message: We're going to cut off their reckless spending. Enough is enough.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation awaits consideration of Speaker PELOSI's health care bill, all 1,900 pages of it, we now learn from the Congressional Budget Office that its price tag has now climbed to \$1.2 trillion. That's \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, not the smaller amount that the supporters claim it will cost.

Over 13,000 of my New Jersey constituents have weighed in with me on health care reform, about 90 percent of whom worry that a government takeover would jeopardize their own private health insurance, and planned cuts to Medicare Advantage in the Pelosi bill for seniors, Medicare cuts for payments to doctors and hospitals, and their anger and anxiety rises even more.

Mr. Speaker, more Washington mandates, more taxes, and less control over their lives, people back home have a right to be very worried and angry.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI has more than 250 votes in the House of Representatives and she only needs 218 to pass legislation. The Democrats in the other body control 60 votes out of 100. The Democrats have the White House. They can pass legislation to take over the health care system in spite of what the American people are saying and in spite of what the American people are asking for.

Because, you see, the American people do want health care reform; they want to lower the costs; they want to be able to deduct all their health care expenses from their taxes. They want tort reform. They want us to address defensive medicine costs. They want to shop around across State lines so they can get a cheaper price. And they want health savings accounts. But the bot-

tom line, Mr. Speaker, is they want the freedom to control their health care, the freedom to choose their own doctor.

Whatever they pass here, Mr. Speaker, I will work to repeal, and I will work for the health care reform that the American public wants to keep them in control of their health care.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Democrat leadership introduced their ever-evolving health care bill, a patchwork of deals cut to garner enough votes to secure a political victory.

In this bill, the trial lawyers win big. My home State of California has enacted commonsense trial practice reforms that have lowered medical liability costs for our residents. Since the enactment of reforms, malpractice rates in California have grown at one-third the rate of States without malpractice reforms, a savings which is passed on to patients. However, this bill would force States to repeal effective liability reforms in favor of unlimited payoffs for trial lawyers or States will lose out on Federal funds for their health care systems.

Health care reform must not reward frivolous lawsuits that drive up the cost of health care to the detriment of doctors, health care professionals and, most importantly, patients. Let's prove that Congress is more serious about the health of the American people than it is about the financial health of trial lawyers.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress over 1 year ago, I was hoping to work across party lines in the spirit of bipartisanship because that's what the people in my district in Florida expected. But ever since I got here, the Democratic majority has locked Republicans out of the debate time and time again. And now here we are talking about what The Wall Street Journal calls the "worst bill ever."

The Pelosi health care bill cuts Medicare, increases taxes on businesses, individuals and employers, and it's a \$1.2 trillion boondoggle that will complete a government takeover of the health care system, even though the majority of Americans don't want it.

I don't know what the majority was doing over the August recess, but I was holding town hall meetings with hundreds of my constituents and friends; and the message was clear, we are a free people that chose to be governed, not the other way around. Enough is enough.