

through who were held hostage in Iran for more than a year. I saw some old video where I saw soldiers doing push-ups and trying to keep themselves busy, Foreign Service personnel and others who were in that embassy that fateful day.

This is an important acknowledgment of a transition that has frozen time for the Iranian people, frozen their rights, their opportunity for freedom and freedom of speech, the understanding of the concept of democracy. As we commemorate, not celebrate, those 30 years, we thank those Americans, those brave Americans who withstood all of that pain of being a hostage, being away from their family members when at the same time we owe them a debt, more than a debt of gratitude.

We owe them the recognition that there are dissidents, Iranians, who are now on the ground fighting against, I believe, an illegally situated government that cannot document that that was a fair process and the brutality that occurred after that election when the Iranians stood up to be able to demand justice and a fair election.

We must push for human rights in Iran. We must push for nonproliferation. We must demand transparency. Of course, their chief executive will suggest that we are demons, that we have no right to interfere into their business.

Well, I would say the name of those brave Americans that lost a lot of their life for a period of time in our history, we owe them our persistence in ensuring that there is an opportunity for freedom and democracy in Iran.

There were those, of course, who lost their lives in the attempt to rescue those individuals. I pay honor and tribute to them. In their name as well we must continue to fight for freedom.

An enormous tragedy occurred yesterday in Texas at Fort Hood, and we respect and acknowledge the loss of those brave men and women. We also say that freedom demands our attention, both in terms of national security but as well for those who sacrifice for us every day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 30th anniversary and thank the author of this legislation, of the Iranian hostage crisis, during which 52 United States citizens were held hostage for 444 days. I acknowledge their sacrifice, the days they stayed away from their family and, as well, the sacrifice of those who attempted to save their lives.

I express support for all of those Iranian citizens who now stand in the battle in the fight for human rights. I would argue that this legislation must be shown in action, and I ask my colleagues to support this initiative.

□ 1845

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 209.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that real health care reform is a necessity, but in the hurry of Congress to pass the \$1 trillion Pelosi bill, we are not listening to our mother's often-given advice, look before you leap. In this case, read before you vote.

The Pelosi bill takes the wrong approach in fixing what is broken in our health care system. Increased taxes do not translate into increased coverage. Eliminating seniors' health care choices and cutting their benefits do not translate into eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. Cost shifting in the health care system does not translate into cost reduction.

Instead, what we need is true health care reform that helps bring down the high cost of care and the high insurance premiums. What we need is health care reform that will allow our families to keep the doctors and the coverage that they want.

Congress needs to end the search for complicated and convoluted ways that hide the actual cost of the Pelosi bill in taxes, mandates, and benefit cuts.

#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, one of the impacts of the proposed health care legislation that has not received the attention it deserves is the huge unfunded mandate that it will place on our respective State governments.

As every Member of this body knows, each State in America is struggling to balance its budget, often cutting services to the bone. I asked my own State legislative leaders how the State of Oklahoma would be impacted by Speaker PELOSI's health care bill. They reported that in Oklahoma this legislation will result in at least \$128 million of additional annual cost to State government. That will require either dra-

conian cuts to existing State services, such as education, transportation, and public safety, or substantial increases in State taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic effort to mask the true cost of this legislation is a scandal. If passed, the Pelosi health care bill will bankrupt State governments, destroy jobs, and further cripple the economy.

Our State governments can't afford this bill, and neither can the American taxpayer.

#### EXPRESSING ARKANSAS THIRD DISTRICT CONSTITUENTS' CONCERNS ABOUT A PUBLIC OPTION

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, residents in Arkansas' Third District don't want a government takeover of health care. In a tele-town hall on Tuesday, I asked my constituents, are you supportive of a public option in health care reform? The overwhelming majority, 76 percent, said that they don't favor that plan.

The reality is, this 1,990 page Pelosi health care bill includes a public option. My constituents don't want to federalize their health care. Like them, I believe this bill is a prescription for big government and an expense our country can't afford.

Three weeks ago, my constituent, Andy Jacobs of Pottsville, Arkansas, sent me a letter, and he makes a great suggestion. "Make a list of all the projects and programs the Federal Government operates and those that have seen the operating costs decrease."

I urge my colleagues to write that list. It doesn't take long to see there are few, if any, government-run programs that are cost-effective.

Arkansas' Third Congressional District sees this bill for what it is, a tax increase.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this so-called Democrat reform package. I know and I believe that health care reform is necessary. However, the looming health care legislation will only hurt American families and have devastating effects on our Nation's small businesses, especially like the ones in South Carolina.

This massive government expansion will cost nearly \$1.3 trillion, which is offset by job-killing tax increases. Small businesses will be hardest hit by these tax increases, which will total a staggering \$730 billion. This is especially troubling in South Carolina, where small businesses make up 97 percent of the businesses there.

According to the Heritage Foundation, 8,700 South Carolina small businesses will be required to pay this new

burdensome tax. This will surely result in more job losses in my State, where unemployment right now, Mr. Speaker, is 11.6 percent.

Please, colleagues, stand with me and fight this government takeover of our health care.

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#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken. Poll after poll now shows by overwhelming majorities that this health care proposal is being rejected by them.

What are their concerns? Seniors are concerned about their Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and their care in general, as this bill makes a \$500 billion cut in the Medicare program, which will lead to rationed care.

Small business owners are concerned about their businesses, as this bill will enact billions of new taxes, surcharges, and places new mandates on them that may cause them to lose their businesses.

Young people are concerned about their futures. Will the \$1 trillion price tag of this bill indebt them and their children for the rest of their lives?

This bill does not lower the cost of health care. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it raises the cost of health care.

The American people don't see this bill as a solution to the health care problem. They see it as adding to the problem. They have spoken. We need to listen.

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#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this week, Democrats released 42 additional pages of the health care bill in their manager's amendment, meaning the total package now stands at 2,032 pages.

As I see it, the manager's amendment makes it more likely that we will see everyone in the exchange on a government-run plan within a few years of its creation. The amendment calls for insurers to report annual premium increases to the government and gives the administrator the power to kick insurers out of the exchange for increases that he or she deem to be excessive, a term that is left entirely up to the discretion of the administrator.

What we have been saying all year is that a plan that doesn't pay the cost of care will shift higher costs to private insurers, as hospitals and providers have to make up their losses on payments from the government. As costs are shifted, private insurers are left with no choice but to increase premiums.

Independent studies have shown that millions of people will be dropped from

their current coverage and put on the public plan. Now, with the manager's amendment, Democrats are simply quickening this transition by kicking insurers off their plan. It is a bad amendment, a bad bill, and it should be rejected.

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#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage the House of Representatives to stay in session until this health care bill brought forward this weekend is passed. I do that because about 4 years ago I lived down the street in Children's Hospital with my daughter, struck with a brain tumor. Given just a few months to live, we began our chemotherapy after the brain operation.

There was a young boy, 2½ years old, diagnosed with acute leukemia next to her, where we heard social workers argue for six hours whether that youth, whose parents didn't have health insurance, could stay.

I have always thought in my 31 years in the military how well we invested here in Congress in our military's health care plan because of the dividends it gave to me, for example, when I went to an 11½ month war, and yet my family and my daughter were taken care of and I was focused on the mission.

We lose \$200 billion a year in lost productivity because of the under and uninsured. Our small businesses pay an 18 percent tax in higher health care costs because we have not taken action over the last 10 years.

I urge my colleagues to stay in session, because doing nothing is not who we are.

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#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am a physician. I practiced medicine in Georgia for almost four decades. In health care, us providers try to do no harm. But, Mr. Speaker, this Pelosi health care takeover is going to destroy the quality of health care.

It is going to actually destroy poor people, and particularly Medicare recipients, from even having a doctor, because the cuts in Medicare are going to mean that doctors just can't afford to continue to see them, even though they want to.

It is going to destroy State budgets because of the increase in the Medicaid recipients that are going to be forced on to the State budgets, which means that it is going to hurt teachers and all the goods and services within the State.

It is going to destroy every family's budget because of the increased cost for everybody in this country, because

all goods and services are going to go up because of the increased taxes on all the business.

It is going to destroy jobs. It has been estimated that 5.5 million jobs are going to be lost. But, most of all, it is going to destroy our economy.

We need to destroy this bill.

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#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about a friend of mine, Kelly Conklin, who owns a small business in New Jersey, since that is what we have been hearing from many of my friends on the other side. It is a small woodworking business.

Each year, Kelly has to determine the best set of benefits at the best price based on his employees and their needs. Unfortunately, the options dictated to him by an insurer leave him with very few choices. He has zero negotiating power. That is why the exchange is a great idea for small businesses to deal with the problems, because offering coverage is the right thing for him to do and the best way for him to attract the most skilled employees.

Kelly is literally at the whim of his insurer. For 2010, he faces a 35 percent increase in premiums. How in God's name can we justify this by a bill that the other side has presented that is cheap because it doesn't do anything?

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#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WAMP. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are united against the Pelosi-Obama health care takeover, but it is not a partisan issue. This week, seven Democrat governors came out in strong opposition to the plan, including my Governor, Phil Bredesen, who called the plan "the mother of all unfunded mandates." Why? Because it adds millions of people to the State's Medicaid rolls, makes them cover them, without the money down the road to pay for it.

States have to balance their budget. They can't borrow \$1 trillion and just print the money and add it to the next generation. They have to balance their budget. The 10th Amendment gives rights to the States. The Federal Government is handing mandates to the States, and they have nowhere to turn except to raise taxes or dramatically cut their budgets. This is not fair to the States. It is the wrong thing to do.

Reject the Pelosi-Obama health care takeover.

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#### HEALTH CARE

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