

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, at the close of last year, it was obvious: America was sliding into a serious recession. And to this very day, the American people are struggling in this difficult economy.

Well, in February, this Democrat Congress passed a \$1 trillion stimulus bill, and the results are starting to come in: 1.6 million jobs lost since the stimulus bill was signed. Unemployment was 12.4 million; it is 14.7 million today. The unemployment rate was 7.5 percent; it is 9.5 percent today, the highest in 26 years. And, remarkably, the President last week said that the recovery bill had "done its job." Done its job?

Look, the American people are starting to get wise to the Democrat plan here. They understand the Democrat agenda is nothing more than more government, more debt, more spending, a national energy tax, and a government takeover of health care.

The Republican plan: fiscal discipline for Washington, D.C. and tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms.

The American people are hurting. They deserve a real plan for a real recovery, not more spending, more taxes, more debt, and more unemployment.

□ 1015

LET'S FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. POLIS. Yesterday, the Senate voted to extend the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico and to expand E-Verify, making this flawed employment verification system both mandatory and permanent for Federal contractors.

The American people don't want to see political posturing; they want to see real, meaningful immigration reform. These provisions attempt to enforce immigration laws without getting to the heart of the issue. Building a bigger wall at the U.S.-Mexico border is going to spend millions of taxpayer dollars and will not stop illegal immigration; reforming our immigration system will.

Forcing Federal contractors to implement a costly employment verification program isn't going to stop illegal immigration. Instead, a mandatory E-Verify clause would force cash-strapped small businesses to make the painful decisions between losing government contracts and spending millions of dollars on a flawed and expensive employment verification system.

It's not that we shouldn't talk about border security or employment verification. We must. These are conversations we need to have as part of a larger debate on comprehensive immigration reform, not as amendments to an appropriations bill. Instead of trying to

act tough, Members of Congress should be tough and fix our broken immigration system.

PRESCRIPTION OF THE DAY: PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, here's the problem: Every 6, 12, or 18 months for the last several years, doctors who participate in Medicare, a public option, have faced steep payment cuts, threatening their ability to keep their doors open.

This Congress, and many Congresses before it, instead of biting the bullet and working to find a long-term and permanent solution to the problem, passes short-term fixes, leaving America's doctors uncertain about their ability to continue serving our Nation's seniors and practicing medicine. Doctors need a stable and reasonable predictor of their Medicare reimbursement rates, and the current formula, the Sustainable Growth Rate formula, is flawed and outdated.

For the past several years I have introduced legislation that will correct this formula, and it is incumbent upon this Congress to address this issue. We need a permanent fix. Our doctors are forced to live under the ax of yearly cuts just for the privilege of seeing our Nation's seniors.

Reforms to the system are important. I urge constituents to go to the Web site healthcaucus.org, weigh in on this issue, and stay abreast on all of the health care debates that are going on in this Congress.

THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the role of American energy sources as articulated in the recently passed Clean Energy and Security Act.

The leadership of the minority party claims that this legislation discriminates against energy sources such as coal, nuclear, and hydroelectric power. Nothing could be further from the truth. This act will make historic investments in coal technology. That's the reason that coal-dependent companies like Duke Energy and American Electric Power, as well as the United Mineworkers, have endorsed the bill.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will strengthen market incentives for nuclear energy by deducting new nuclear from the baseline of renewable electricity standards. That's why Exelon and Entergy, America's first and second largest nuclear energy producers, have endorsed the bill.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will create strong incentives

for new hydroelectric generation when new turbines are placed on existing dams. That's why Pacific Gas and Electric and Seattle City Light, two utilities with substantial investments in hydroelectric, have endorsed the bill.

Mr. Speaker, don't take my word for it. These companies that rely on coal, nuclear, and hydro would not support the bill if it didn't help their industry.

HEALTH CARE'S PUBLIC OPTION

(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, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to see a so-called "public option" as a part of any health care reform plan. The key question for any public health option is, would this plan be subsidized with taxpayer money? If not, then the public option would simply be a nonprofit insurance business which anyone could create now. But if taxpayer money will subsidize this option, and I believe it will, the public option will only serve to crowd out other choices.

A public option will not save any money; it will compete and undermine private plans. And I'm afraid many companies will end up dumping employees under the public plan. A public option is nothing more than a back door to government-owned health care which will ultimately result in rationed care and bureaucrats in charge of your health care choices.

COMBATING OBESITY IN AMERICA

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, as I travel throughout my district, the primary concern I hear over and over again from Republicans, Independents, and Democrats, is that we need to reform our Nation's health care system. However, any meaningful reform must begin by taking control over the skyrocketing costs of health care. As a clinical dietitian for 25 years, I know that this can only be achieved with serious commitment to healthy living and combating obesity in America.

A recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that one out of every five American 4-year-olds is obese. I would like to repeat that. One out of every five 4-year-olds in America is obese. Why is this a problem? The CDC estimated recently that the total cost of obesity in the United States is \$117 billion.

Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, if we are serious about reforming our health care system, we need to get serious about combating obesity. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring healthy living, wellness, and prevention are major components of the final health care bill. The success of our reform depends on it.

LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BE HEARD ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come here today to ask that you include all of our voices in crafting responsible health care reform legislation. This issue is too large and impacts too many people to write a bill from only one side of the aisle.

In my home State of Virginia, more than 1.1 million individuals are uninsured, and health care premiums grow another 10 percent annually. Back in the First District, I formed and work with a Health Care Advisory Council comprised of local patient advocates, physicians, nurses, students, insurance providers, hospitals, community health centers, and other stakeholders in the health care reform debate. These folks have great ideas that deserve an opportunity to be heard. They are clear-cut ideas on which both sides can agree.

We must let Americans who like their health care coverage keep it and give all Americans the freedom to choose the health plan that best meets their needs. We must also focus on prevention, disease management, and wellness programs, as well as the development of new treatments and cures for life-threatening diseases.

We must also allow the Federal Government to partner with States to improve programs that guarantee access to affordable coverage for those with preexisting conditions.

Finally, we must increase transparency to improve patient access to the best health care information available.

These are things upon which Republicans and Democrats can agree in order to provide relief to the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I hosted a town hall meeting in my district in Syracuse, New York. The town hall was extremely well attended, with over 400 constituents from across central New York in attendance, and everyone was interested. I think there may have even been 400 different opinions in the room. The ones who were the most passionate, of course, were the ones on both sides of it and the extreme sides of it. There was the crowd that wanted a government-run, single-payer health care system and wouldn't settle for much else, and then there were about an equal number equally convinced that the government should have absolutely no role in health care whatsoever and that any role at all would be socialism. I think most of the people in my district, though, are somewhere in the middle.

I would like to share just one story from my town hall. At the end of the evening, after some pretty heated rhetoric, a man named Doug West of Skaneateles, New York, came down to the front of the auditorium to show me his monthly insurance bill and how it went from about \$350 about 6 years ago to more than \$800 today. Doug is a retired engineer from a local company, and unless there are some dramatic changes, Doug is not going to be able to afford that rising cost forever.

Doug and his family are examples of the constituents that I will be focused on in my advocacy for higher quality and more affordable health care.

DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as both the House and Senate Democrats attempt to pass a multitrillion-dollar government-run health care bill, there are some facts that have come out that we can now all see.

These three facts are now evident about the House Democrat legislation:

First, the bill will force 114 million Americans out of their current health care coverage into a new government-controlled health care plan;

Second, the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office states that the bill will cost the American taxpayers \$1.5 trillion;

And third, 29 million Americans will still remain uninsured if this disastrous piece of legislation becomes law.

But 83 percent of Americans like the insurance they now have. Yes, we must reform the system to include those without insurance, but we must not throw out what is working.

The American people need real reforms, not government-run medicine.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, as a mother of a young 2-year-old son, like millions of moms in America, health care is very important to me. And I want to know that I have the freedom to go to whatever doctor I choose and have the medical treatment that is best for my son, Cole.

We are facing a serious health care crisis, and we must do everything we can to fix the problem. Last week, I was back home in eastern Washington. Everywhere I went I heard about the lack of doctors and nurses, the high cost of health insurance, and the limited access to quality health care, especially in the rural areas. I also heard fears that the government may take over our health care, parents who are worried their child won't be able to see the pediatrician of their choice, or sen-

iors who worry that the doctor they trusted for decades may drop his or her coverage because the government doesn't pay them enough to keep practicing.

During this debate, let us not forget that doctors are the true experts. We can reform our system and cover the uninsured without the Federal Government setting up shop as a health insurance company and a health care gatekeeper, and without sacrificing that important doctor-patient relationship.

REMEMBERING BOB SHORT

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, Bob Short died yesterday. Most people don't know the name Bob Short, but if you go back several decades and think back to the beginning of the first book series, "The Gospel According to Peanuts," you are reading Bob Short.

I got to know him later in life when he began attending my wife's church at Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, just a few years ago. He developed an illness several months ago, and we lost a great American, a man who had great impact on the thinking of a lot of Americans, particularly those who loved Charlie Schultz and the Peanuts comic strips. Bob Short will be missed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 31, nays 385, answered "present" 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 497]

YEAS—31

Bartlett	Gingrey (GA)	Paul
Barton (TX)	Gohmert	Price (GA)
Blackburn	Hensarling	Sessions
Broun (GA)	Johnson (IL)	Shadegg
Campbell	King (IA)	Souder
Chaffetz	Lamborn	Spratt
Coffman (CO)	Marchant	Thornberry
Connolly (VA)	McHenry	Tiahrt
Fleming	Murtha	Young (AK)
Fox	Olson	
Garrett (NJ)	Pascarella	

NAYS—385

Abercrombie	Bachmann	Biggert
Ackerman	Bachus	Bliray
Aderholt	Baldwin	Bilirakis
Adler (NJ)	Barrett (SC)	Bishop (GA)
Akin	Barrow	Bishop (NY)
Alexander	Bean	Blumenauer
Altmire	Becerra	Blunt
Arcuri	Berkley	Bocieri
Austria	Berman	Boehner
Baca	Berry	Bonner