

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, under the current health care proposal in the House, the health coverage of 16 million Americans who hold individual market health plans is in jeopardy.

We've heard, "If you like it, you can keep it," but this bill breaks that promise, takes away the freedom to choose, and drives up costs.

Under this bill, private providers of individual health plans will be prohibited from enrolling even one new member. It's simple economics. Without new enrollees, the existing members will only get older, get sicker. Costs will skyrocket and so will the premiums.

Cost will prevent the providers from providing quality coverage. Cost will force 16 million Americans out of their current health care coverage. This is not choice. This is not freedom.

Last week, I offered an amendment in the House Ways and Means Committee to stop this. The amendment was rejected.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill so we can discuss solid solutions that will protect and strengthen health care of every American.

#### THE COST OF INACTION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. I rise today because we cannot forget one important factor in the health care reform debate, that the cost of inaction far outweighs today's price tag.

We believe that we can live with our health care system as is; yet we forget, until we show up in the emergency room at 1 in the morning with our daughter who is sick, that there is already a bureaucrat in the room: our health insurance company.

We believe that those who are uncovered are costing us nothing; yet they are overwhelming our emergency care facilities and costing you, the taxpayer, overwhelming amounts in fees that they cannot pay out of pocket.

We believe that health care reform is synonymous with rising costs; yet we forget that costs are already on the rise. We're paying more out of pocket, whether covered by an insurance plan or not, and getting less.

If health care costs continue to increase at the rate they have, most American households will be spending 45 percent of their income on health insurance by 2016. Premiums have doubled in 9 years, three times faster than wages.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the cost of inaction far outweighs today's price tag.

#### INTERNATIONAL TAX PROPOSALS

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Americans are seeing jobs sift through their fingers like so many grains of sand. We have seen 2

million jobs lost since the stimulus passed, millions more under the cap-and-tax scheme that moved through the House, and even millions more lost if the health care plan moves forward.

But our adventures don't stop there. The administration has proposed \$200 billion in tax increases on worldwide American companies in the form of changes to tax deferral rules.

A report released in June, coauthored by a former Clinton administration official, acknowledged that the deferral changes would cost as many as 2.2 million American jobs.

This isn't about big, bad American companies. This is about American companies and workers having the tools to compete overseas to pursue 95 percent of the world's customers who are living outside of the United States and our borders.

Deferral is one of these tools that we need to make sure that is in place over the long run to make sure that Americans can compete in worldwide markets.

#### CONGRATULATING DR. JIM NAVE

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dear friend and admired leader in our community of Las Vegas, Dr. Jim Nave. Dr. Nave was recently recognized for his outstanding work as a veterinarian at the American Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Convention, where he received their award for his distinguished contributions to the advancement of veterinary medical organizations.

His achievements in the veterinary field are incomparable, both in quantity and in quality. He has served as president of the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association and on the Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. He was also named Nevada's outstanding Veterinarian of the Year in 1988.

In addition, he has been both the chair of the AVMA executive board and president of that organization, where he helped establish a mentoring program, create the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues, and restore the rank of brigadier general to the leader of the Army Veterinary Corps, in which he served, earning the Bronze Star for his brave action in Vietnam.

Dr. Nave is an internationally respected leader in the field, and I congratulate him for receiving AVMA's most prestigious award. I also thank him on behalf of the people of Las Vegas and their beloved pets for all his compassion and his dedication.

#### SPENDING SPREE IN CONGRESS

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

Ms. FALLIN. American families have taken a hit time and time again, and

they are hurting. The stock market has tanked, gas prices spiked, hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost, and unemployment has soared.

It is no secret that we need to reform our Nation's health care system and provide relief to American families throughout this country by helping them with access to affordable health care and quality coverage for healthy living. But we can't do this unless we rein in the excessive costs and prevent an explosive deficit in spending.

In just 7 months, this House passed an energy bill that will cost American families \$846 billion in new taxes and a \$1 trillion economic stimulus bill that is yet to create the jobs it was predicted to do. Our national debt now stands at \$11.5 trillion.

House leaders now have been on a spending spree and are about to raise taxes even higher for this health care reform bill. This approach is wrong, and the American people know it.

Mr. Speaker, with all this spending in this bill, I cannot find a sincere attempt to rein in the cost and increase access to quality care. I only see more regulation, less choice, and major tax increases on families and businesses. There are market-based solutions to provide affordable health care and to make it more portable and to have quality access to quality care.

Unless we are able to reform this health care system, it is going to be another spending spree here in Congress.

#### SOME HISTORICAL FACTS

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, people are entitled to their own opinions but not their own set of facts. The historical facts are that it was the Reagan-Bush administration that busted the budget year after year establishing unprecedented deficits.

But then the Clinton administration came in, passed the Balanced Budget Amendment, against Republican opposition, implemented the PAYGO concept, and generated \$5.6 trillion of projected surpluses. In fact, Alan Greenspan was worried about too much surplus.

Then, the Republican Bush administration comes in, rejected the PAYGO concept, passes two tax cuts, starts a war, not one dime of which were ever paid for, and now the Democrats will come back and pass statutory PAYGO because PAYGO is defining of the Democrat Party's commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability.

#### DENY FUNDING TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. PENCE. The time has come to deny any and all funding to Planned

Parenthood of America. The largest abortion provider in America should not also be the largest recipient of Federal funding under title X.

Today, I filed an amendment to block any funds under title X in the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill from going to Planned Parenthood again. It's the same amendment that was supported by 189 bipartisan Members in the year 2007, and I'm confident it would enjoy broad support again.

The Pence amendment would simply prevent funds under title X from going to Planned Parenthood. It would not reduce the total amount of funds available for ethical family planning services.

The truth, is title X clinics do important work in the underserved communities around this country. A number of federally funded clinics across the Nation offer beneficial services, including patient counseling, breast cancer screening, and ethical family planning.

By contrast, Planned Parenthood's annual report reports that it received \$350 million in revenue from government grants and contracts. In the same annual report, they boast 305,000 abortions provided.

Title X money should go to meet the underserved community, not to provide offsetting resources for the largest abortion provider in America.

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#### THE AMERICAN GRADUATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Today I want to tell you about Ray Roddy from Hillsdale, Michigan. Ray was laid off from his job making engine components and realized he would need further education to find another job. He enrolled at Jackson Community College and is working hard to become a nurse. Ray isn't alone. In the last 2 years, 6.5 million Americans have lost their jobs and many remain unemployed.

In today's economy with rising unemployment, it is critical to invest in our future by increasing the number of college graduates. That's why I support President Obama's American Graduation Initiative. This initiative will help prepare Americans for the jobs of the 21st century. It will help people like Ray gain the education and skills they need to compete in the global economy. It will also establish new grants to help community colleges improve access to education and build ties to businesses to increase graduates' chances of gaining employment. With the American Graduation Initiative, the number of unemployed Americans will be dramatically reduced in the next 10 years by helping 5 million people earn more college degrees. Ray Roddy needs a job, and he is going to get one. Thanks to this exciting initiative, so will 5 million other Americans.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM BEFORE THE AUGUST RECESS

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with tremendous hope and full confidence that we are finally moving forward with legislation that will put our health care system on the right track and bring quality, affordable health care to all Americans. I strongly support H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act. I believe that this is the right step for families, for small businesses, and for people in Maine and all across the country. But I also have a warning, a warning that comes from my experience in the Maine Legislature, a warning that comes from taking on the pharmaceutical companies, the insurance companies and the entrenched special interests that have done everything they can to block health care reform for a generation.

Mr. Speaker, if we go home for recess without passing this bill, we will give the special interests and their lobbyists 5 weeks to dump millions of dollars into ad campaigns that spread misinformation, fear and confusion. We will give them 5 weeks to do everything they can to kill the best chance we have had in a lifetime to move forward on significant health care reform. We must pass this bill now. We absolutely cannot afford to wait. I look forward to going back to my district in August and telling the good people of Maine that we didn't let them down.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM WILL MAKE INSURANCE COMPANIES COMPETE FOR CUSTOMERS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we already know that the Republicans have committed themselves to doing everything possible to prevent this body from passing the health care reform that the American people desperately need and want. Yesterday and today, we've heard a Greek chorus of Republican talking points designed to misrepresent what we are trying to do to help the American people maintain and gain access to affordable quality care. Among the most glaring misrepresentations is that we're somehow going to force the American people to be insured in a public plan. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The essence of our proposal is to provide choice and competition so that insurance companies will have to compete for the American people's business rather than the American people having to beg for coverage, only to find that their coverage isn't adequate when they really need it. This is the type of reform that we need for this country, for the American people; and

no Republican misrepresentations will prevent this body from acting.

#### AMERICANS DO NOT WANT BUREAUCRATS LIMITING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

(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, on a daily basis we make our own choices. From decisions as simple as paper or plastic, diet or regular, decaffeinated or high-test to ones as profound as Republican or Democrat and temple or church as the place we choose to worship. We come from a Nation of freedom that has allowed us to make choices in our lives. But if Democrats have their way, government bureaucrats will soon choose our health care. There is a television advertisement about a woman whose doctor told her to go get her affairs in order because she had cancer and less than 6 months to live. She then chose to go to a different provider, and several years later, she is still alive and healthy.

Under the Democratic proposal, an unelected official in Washington will be making health decisions for individuals and families across this Nation. Patient choice will be a thing of the past unless you are wealthy enough to go outside the system. When competition dies, so does quality.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons this Nation has the best health care in the world is competition and compassion. Let's choose not to lose that quality and to continue to be able to go to the physician who can best serve our needs.

#### AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS NEED HEALTH INSURANCE TOO

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

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, as we have worked these last several months on the issue of health care, I have engaged my community in a variety of townhall meetings, forums and opportunities for them to let me know what they need out of the health care bill, to tell me their stories. I would like to share one of those with you. My constituent writes, This is not my story, but it is the story of a close friend who died last November at the age of 50. During his life, he was afflicted with diabetes and heart disease. He was self-employed and could not get health insurance because of his preexisting conditions. A few months prior to his death, he asked me to review a brochure advertising a plan to get discounts on various things, including medical services and drugs, but clearly stated it was not insurance. I told him the company was not promising anything, only a hope that discounts could be obtained. He was going to pay the \$178 per month premium anyway because he couldn't get insurance or any