

For this Congress, Republican moderates wrote a health reform bill to repeat these successes, lowering the costs for all Americans and expanding coverage. Indications are we will not be allowed to vote on these commonsense reforms. Instead, we will vote on a bill that is 1,000 pages long, at \$1 billion a page, costing \$1 trillion, raising taxes in the teeth of this recession to marginal rates higher than France.

I urge Members to reject this bill and put forward a commonsense set of reforms that will lower health costs without raising taxes.

WE NEED TO PASS THE HEALTH REFORM BILL

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, recently a constituent called me distraught. She has health insurance, but that company is denying life-saving surgery for her daughter born with spina bifida. Why? Because when this mother took a new job recently, she got new health insurance, and this health insurance company says they don't have to pay for her daughter's surgery because spina bifida is a preexisting condition.

Sadly, this is not an isolated story. Every one of us here has constituents who are going through similar situations. These are the people I am fighting for.

Our health reform bill seeks to insure the nearly 50 million people who don't have any health insurance, but just as important is fixing the currently broken health insurance for people who have or think they have coverage. We will force insurance companies to change these policies, and we will guarantee that every American has access to a plan that will always be there for them. This can be a private plan or the public plan, but there will always be an option

And that's why we need to pass this health reform bill, and we need to do it now.

REFORM IN OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM CANNOT SACRIFICE THE HEALTH OF OUR SMALL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, an uneven playing field already exists between large financial institutions and smaller community banks. Rather than working to close that gap, however, President Obama has decided to further our community bankers' burdens with his Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

Under this new agency, community banks that have continued to provide a reliable source of credit to their customers will be saddled with additional

costs and regulations that could potentially drive many out of business. In addition, these increased costs will be passed along to consumers in the form of higher bank fees and less availability of credit. So, exactly how is this supposed to help our current financial crisis?

It appears as though, once again, this administration plans to force Main Street to pay for the mistakes made on Wall Street as they continue to follow their financial policy of "too big to fail, too small to matter."

Reform is needed within our financial system, but that reform cannot sacrifice the health of our small financial institutions.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today the Federal minimum wage rises to \$7.25 an hour. This Congress is proud that the previous Congress passed the minimum wage, and it went up in stair steps; and in these tough economic times, working people need help. They need help with all types of activities.

This will put \$1,100 in the pockets of working people. That means money for groceries, for rent, for school supplies, moneys that will help with this economic recovery, \$5.5 billion over the next 12 months.

One of the first votes I took in this Congress was to increase the minimum wage that had been held stagnant for decades. This will help 40,000 people in my district in Memphis and across the country.

This Congress should be proud of its support for working families, but sad that it took so long to get this minimum wage to where it is. We need to help the working people, and we need to make sure we make this country a better country with health insurance for all.

CONSUMER PROTECTION REGULATION?

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, Toni Marie's bakery in my hometown can fulfill your chocolate chip cookie cravings or make an elegant wedding cake for you, which they did for my kids. Imagine if D.C. bureaucrats from a new Federal consumer cookie protection agency require our bakery to use only a new Federal cookie recipe and sell one kind of cookie, sugar free with no flavor, and only certain customers are deemed healthy enough to buy it so they stop going. What happens? The bakery is out of business.

As crazy as it sounds, it's very similar to the Democrats' solution to protect us from our future financial dis-

aster. Masked in rhetoric to simplify and improve our lives, the proposal creates a new agency to tell every community financial business across America which products they can and cannot offer to consumers.

Bigger government and limits on choice won't restore confidence in our financial marketplace. Our system needs a stronger, smarter, regulatory approach which our Republican plan offers to empower consumers, protect against fraud, and preserve consumer choice.

THE TIME IS NOW FOR HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama in his speech to the Nation on Wednesday night really brought home the fact that we need to act on health care reform immediately before this Congress adjourns for the August recess, and the reason is simple: costs continue to go up.

The cost of health insurance, inflation is way out of line by comparison to any other developed country, and we still have about 40 million to 50 million Americans that have no health insurance. So we need to do both. We need to cover everyone as best we can, and we need to bring down the costs of health insurance.

The bottom line is that many of the organizations who opposed health insurance reform 15 years ago when I was here under President Clinton now support a plan that the insurance companies, the AMA, the doctors, PhRMA, the pharmaceutical industry, all these groups have come together with President Obama because they realize that we can't continue with the status quo.

The time is now for health insurance reform, and we need to get together as both Democrats and Republicans to pass it.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER WILL KILL JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President says incorrectly that if you like your health care coverage you can keep it under his plan. This has been refuted by many sources, including the White House, which has admitted that the President's rhetoric should not be taken literally. Unfortunately, with the mandates and new taxes on small businesses included in the Democrat bill, the question should be: if you like your job, can you keep it?

With estimates ranging from 1.6 million to 4.7 million jobs lost under the Democrat scheme, it is clear this plan will destroy jobs and weaken our economy. You cannot make health care

more affordable for Americans if you destroy jobs.

Republicans want to give the American people a leg up through tax relief and resources for small businesses to provide quality health care coverage. We have solutions that do not rely on tax hikes, mandates, and Big Government bureaucrats which lead to waiting lists and rationing.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

DEMOCRATS ARE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my constituents have given me the honor and the privilege of serving here in the House of Representatives for 17 years now, and in all of those 17 years coming from an area where health care costs have continued to accelerate each year, in all those years, I've come here along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle seeking better opportunities for the seniors, those who are disabled, those who are without health care, and all we've done is talk.

Well, now the Democrats have done something about that. We do have a plan that is before the American public. It allows for no more copays or deductibles for preventative care and an annual cap on out-of-pocket expenses, keeping Americans from financial ruin; an end to increases for pre-existing conditions, gender, or occupation; group rates of a national pool if you buy your own plan; guaranteed affordable health care and vision care.

If we keep the Republican's plan in mind, costs will go up.

AMERICANS NEED TO SAY "YES" TO REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

(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, this morning on "Fox and Friends," one of my favorite golfists, Phil Mickelson, was there talking about his wife, Amy, and his mother, Mary, having breast cancer. He made an astonishing statement. He said that the treatment of breast cancer today is better than it was 5 years ago, better than 10 years ago, and he's absolutely right. Mr. Mickelson's hope in the cure for his mother and his wife's breast cancer, this devastating illness, is very high.

But, Mr. Speaker, the American people need to understand if we pass the Democratic health care reform bill that they are proposing, innovation in health care is going to quit or go down and be very little. The quality of care

is going to go down. As a physician, I can tell the American people that the quality of your care will be worse a few years from now because of the Democratic Party's health reform plan.

The American people need to stand up, Mr. Speaker, and say "no" to this and say "yes" to some of the alternatives that Republicans are presenting. We have a plan, but it will not be heard unless the American people demand it.

□ 0915

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the House that on July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At an appropriate point today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. King submitted an amendment to the Committee on Rules to H.R. 3293, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010;

Whereas the said gentleman's amendment would have required that none of the funds made available in this Act be made available to ACORN or any of its 174 known affiliates;

Whereas, since 1994, ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, and its affiliates have received \$53,643,444.58 in taxpayer funding from the federal government;

Whereas despite the trust placed in ACORN by taxpayers to act as a responsible steward of the funding provided to it, ACORN has proven itself to be an organization committed to breaking our laws and undermining our democratic political process;

Whereas during the 2008 federal election cycle, ACORN mobilized its nationwide, grassroots organization in an effort to affect the outcomes of elections nationwide through voter registration campaigns; and

Whereas ACORN is now under investigation in at least 14 states regarding allegations of fraudulent activities that were undertaken by the organization as part of its voter registration campaigns;

Whereas ACORN was charged with voter fraud in Nevada;

Whereas ACORN has admitted to submitting over 400,000 fraudulent voter registrations in the 2008 election cycle;

Whereas, because of its alleged fraudulent behavior during the 2008 election cycle, it is important that ACORN be prohibited from receiving any additional taxpayer funding;

Whereas the need to prohibit additional funding to ACORN led the Gentleman to submit his amendment to the Committee on Rules;

Whereas the gentleman's amendment complied with all applicable Rules of the House for amendments to appropriations measures and would have been in order under an open amendment process, but regrettably the House Democratic leadership has dramatically and historically reduced the opportunity for open debate on this Floor; and

Whereas the Speaker, Mrs. Pelosi, the Democrat leadership, and the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Obey, prevented the House from voting on the amendment by excluding it from the list of amendments made in order under the rule for the bill: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That H. Res. 673, the rule to accompany H.R. 3293, be amended to allow the gentleman from Iowa's amendment be considered and voted on in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, the resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Iowa will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3293, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution H. Res. 673 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 673

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3293) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read through page 134, line 12. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are