

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that our Republican colleagues are refusing to work with us in crafting health care reform legislation.

Yes, you are.

Instead of working with us, you have cranked up your message machine. You have labeled our legislation with every label except ones that are accurate. Most disappointing, Republicans are frightening our seniors with false statements that they will experience a reduction in Medicare benefits. Wrong.

The truth is this legislation would not only maintain important Medicare benefits, but it will enhance them. We cannot afford to continue to do nothing about health care reform. There are 45 million who are uninsured. There are 14,000 Americans who are losing their benefits every day. Employer-sponsored group plans are getting more expensive. They have high deductibles and high copays, and they simply don't provide the security that families need. The cost of family health insurance will continue to rise five times faster than wages.

We must have reform and we must have it now. I urge my Republican colleagues to reconsider their strategy to block this legislation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

THE TRUE COST OF GOVERNMENT- RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans do support reasonable health care reform that will lower the cost of health care and health insurance for every American family and for every American business, but the Democrat plan for health care reform amounts to a government takeover of health care in this country, paid for with nearly \$1 trillion in higher taxes.

The American people know what government-run health care will mean: higher cost, bigger deficits, less coverage, less quality, less choice, and more bureaucracy.

House Republicans have led the fight against this government takeover of health care, and now House Republicans and a handful of Democrats are on the verge of a historic victory for the American people and for our American health care economy, but we need your help.

If you oppose government-run health care, call your Congressman today. If you oppose higher costs, bigger deficits, less coverage, and more bureaucracy, call your Congressman today. If you want real bipartisan health care reform that lowers the cost and that

addresses the real needs of our health care economy with American solutions, call your Congressman today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to dispel misinformation that has been propagated about the health care system. I've heard many of my colleagues across the aisle claim that the Democrats' health care proposal will result in rationing. Let's address it.

How many millions of people have put off getting checkups, have avoided doing necessary followups, have delayed needed care or have failed to get the prescriptions their doctors have ordered for them?

Why? Because we ration care every day in this country now. If you want to talk about rationing, listen to these numbers:

Forty-five percent of Americans went without needed care because of costs in this country in 2007. That's rationing. Fifty-three percent of Americans cut back on their health care in the last year because of costs. That's rationing. Between 2000 and 2008, 5 million families filed for bankruptcy because of medical bills. That's rationing. About one-third of the uninsured have a chronic disease. They are six times less likely to receive care for a health problem than are the insured. That's rationing.

As many as 22,000 Americans die each year because they don't have health insurance. My brothers and sisters, that's rationing.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR TRUE 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, we were told time was of the essence when we were considering the economic stimulus package. We were told we didn't have time to waste in passing the President's budget. Yet, despite the hundreds of billions of dollars in additional spending and despite the trillions of dollars in additional debt, we must ask: Where are the jobs?

Now we're told we must rush to pass health care reform, which will cost you more jobs, which will increase taxes and which will put a Federal bureaucrat between you and your doctor.

House Republicans believe in true health care reform that will reduce

skyrocketing health care costs while protecting that very special doctor-patient relationship. True reform must make health care more affordable by reducing costs by rooting out waste, fraud and abuse and by reining in frivolous lawsuits that cost families millions of dollars each year in higher premiums—true health care reform that challenges Americans to be healthy and to invest in health information technology.

Let's take the time, and let's work together to get the right prescription for health care reform.

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT IS STABILIZING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, the Dow is back over 9,000, and new housing starts have seen their largest monthly increase in 9 years. While, overall, the Nation's financial indicators remain mixed, there is a growing body of evidence that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has helped stabilize our economy. Because of the stimulus, more than 95 percent of American families have seen their taxes cut, and 51 million seniors and veterans have received their \$250 relief payments in the mail. More than 38,000 stimulus-funded projects are already under way, many of which have come in under budget.

The American people can visit recovery.org to see how every penny has been spent. Only 4 months into the 2-year recovery package, already we are seeing results. While the road to recovery is long, we have clearly taken the first steps, and we are finally headed in the right direction.

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HEALTH CARE AND NEW JOBS

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House got up and said, jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. That was when we were dealing with what they call the National Energy Tax. We called it cap-and-tax. But what was the reality? That particular bill passed by the Congress will result in job losses of 2.3 million to 2.7 million. It's predicted by 2035, 1.38 million manufacturing jobs will go overseas.

The number of job growths created by the Democrats thus far? Zero. None. What jobs was she talking about? Her job? We don't know. But we haven't seen the jobs. Where are the jobs?

And now we're looking at a health care plan which experts tell us between 4 million and 6 million more jobs will be lost and there will be no reduction in the cost to the American people. Let's get a health care plan that works and let's ask again, and again, and

again, Madam Speaker, Where are the jobs?

PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we're going to hear a lot of rhetoric on this House floor and throughout this city of why we shouldn't do health care reform, but we don't have to listen to people here in Washington, D.C. We need to listen to our folks at home about why we need to pass health care reform.

I recently was contacted by a woman from Waterbury, Connecticut, who suffers from type 2 diabetes. She worked her entire life, paid her bills, mortgage, did everything right. But now she's on COBRA and is about to lose it. Even though her diabetes is under control, every company refuses to insure her based on her preexisting condition.

She knows that getting sick and ending up in the hospital could put that home that she worked so hard for in jeopardy; and she writes to me, Somebody has to stop the insurance companies from making decisions regarding life and death.

Mr. Speaker, doing nothing here in the House of Representatives as our friends on the Republican side would like says to her that her situation is unsustainable, she has no way out. We need to pass health care reform to answer her and the thousands of constituents in each one of our districts just like her.

NO MESSAGE MACHINE

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely outrageous to say the Republicans want to do nothing on health care reform. We want to expand medical savings accounts; we want to do everything we can to build associated health plans so that small businesses out there working and struggling trying to create jobs in the private sector can come together and, in fact, purchase health insurance for their employees. We want to do everything that we can to allow people to, on the Internet, purchase health care insurance across State lines.

The fact is, it's no message machine or talking point to realize that the Congressional Budget Office has said that contrary to Speaker PELOSI's line, This is going to dramatically increase the cost of health care, and Robert Samuelson, no Republican he, in The Post yesterday said, If you listen to President Obama, his reform will satisfy most everyone. It will insure the uninsured, control runaway health spending, subdue future health budget benefits, preserve choice for payments and include quality of care.

He said these claims are self-serving exaggerations and political fantasies.

SYNIVERSE TECHNOLOGIES AND WELLNESS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, through health care reform, we're going to ensure that families are healthy and that we put money back into their pockets. And here's a great example:

Yesterday when I was home in Tampa, I paid a visit to Syniverse Technologies, a global communications firm that employs 650 people. We unveiled Syniverse's new onsite health clinic and wellness initiative. The workplace clinic is staffed with a medical assistant and a nurse practitioner, and employees love it.

The Syniverse team explained that they expect to save \$1 million over the next 5 years due to the convenient clinic and their wellness initiative that encourages employees to lose weight, stop smoking, and lead healthier lives.

Syniverse employees don't have to miss work for doctor's appointments or to run to the drug store for simple prescriptions. They can bring their families there with no copay. It is smart, it is convenient and less expensive for employees, and it's smart for the companies because the employees will be more productive. Syniverse expects lower health insurance costs because the company's employees will be healthier.

One of the goals of the Democratic health care reform is to encourage these innovative community clinics and wellness initiatives for families and businesses so that health care is more convenient and it's more affordable for others.

DEMOCRATS' HEALTH REFORM PREDICTS A DANGEROUS OUTCOME

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Last week I came to the House floor to discuss how this Democrat Congress is bankrupting America. They continue to force massive spending through this body that has led to record unemployment and record deficits for America. Well, they're set to do it again this week with health care reform.

Three years ago, Massachusetts set out to accomplish universal coverage just like what the Democrats want to do for all of America. So far, the facts are plain. Insurance prices are higher than expected, safety net hospitals are struggling more than ever, doctors cannot keep up with the increased demand, and some people without insurance still cannot afford care.

The State legislature is already exploring options for rationed care to

control health care spending, which, in Massachusetts, is 25 percent higher than the national average. This is a dangerous precedent to follow.

Many in Massachusetts are still uninsured, costs are skyrocketing, and the State is going bankrupt.

Mr. Speaker, not a good prescription for America.

HOPE IS ON THE WAY

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind everyone on both sides of the aisle, whether you're Republican, a Democrat, a Libertarian or an Independent, that hope is on the way.

We have some things we can agree upon. Isn't it a fact that we all agree that it's time to end discrimination in health care where insurance companies are allowed to discriminate against you because of a preexisting condition? I think it's time.

We secured equal treatment at the lunch counter 50-some years ago; and this year, we're going to come to some agreement here in the House to end the discrimination in health care and bring equality to the pharmacy counter as well. We can all agree it's time to end the discrimination in health care due to preexisting conditions, to pass a bill that has a standard plan, an insurance plan that includes all Americans, a standard plan that each and every insurance company must sell to any citizen throughout the land.

In this House, at this time, we can agree on these things.

CHANGE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INTERNALLY

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly right: there are things we can agree on. In fact, there are things we have already agreed on. The minority has never reached out on issues to the majority more aggressively than on this one, where we have said we want a plan where everyone has access regardless of preexisting conditions. We want more competition and more choice that we believe will impact price. We are not satisfied with the current system.

Internally, we think you change this system by medical malpractice reform, by more health IT, by more transparency of both results, cost and care. Those are the principles we ought to be advancing.

The administration insists that this be done their way. We are not for government takeover of health care. We're for a system that works better for the American people, and we stand ready to work together to make that system happen.