

Mr. Speaker, baby boomers entering into the later stages of life will cause America's older population to double in the next few years. We must reform our health care system to adequately compensate doctors for providing preventative and coordinated care to patients in every stage of life. If we do it right, it will save money because many superfluous and harmful treatments will be eliminated and seniors will not only live longer but better lives.

HEALTH CARE BILL AN IMPEDIMENT TO JOB CREATION

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, many of my Republican colleagues and I have been coming down to this floor and asking the question, where are the jobs? Because the stimulus package has failed to deliver on the promise of 3 million jobs that it said it would, and instead our economy has actually lost over 3 million jobs.

And now we will soon be asked to vote on a health care reform package that places even more hurdles to jobs and growth of job creation. The health care plan being debated puts an onerous new tax on individuals and small business job creators through a surtax on income. It adds a new 8 percent tax on payrolls for companies that don't provide health care, Mr. Speaker.

Does anyone actually believe that the addition of this new tax will encourage job providers to either raise their workers' pay or to create new jobs when both of these actions actually lead to higher taxes?

In the rush to pass the stimulus, the Democrats put \$1 trillion of new debt on our children and on our grandchildren and did not create the jobs that we need. In our rush to pass a new health care bill, we will now put new hurdles to job creation and economic growth.

Where are the jobs? Clearly not in this new health care package.

THE RECOVERY ACT IS WORKING

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, for the past couple of weeks, Members from the other side of the aisle have come to the floor, as we have heard today, and rhetorically asked, where are the jobs? Assertions have been made the Recovery Act was ineffective and hasn't created any jobs. Well, that simply isn't the case in my district. I would like to give one example, Mr. Speaker.

As Oregon families prepare to send their children back to school, let's talk about what the recovery dollars are doing in our local school districts, often the heart of our communities. In my district, recovery funds are saving the equivalent of 145 teaching and sup-

port jobs in one school district alone, the Salem/Keizer School District, in the 2009–2010 school year. These are positions that would have been eliminated without this critical funding and are crucial to the core academic growth and development of our students.

These same recovery dollars are also preventing the equivalent of a district-wide, class-size increase of 2½ students and preventing an 11-day reduction in the school year. Money well spent.

We don't spend enough time in this building talking about the jobs that are saved and families that are benefiting from these recovery dollars. Without the recovery package, more teachers would have lost their jobs and our students would have suffered.

SITTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sammy Mahan is a small business entrepreneur. He owns and operates Sammy's Wrecker Service in Baytown, Texas. He owns 7 trucks, employs 5 drivers, a dispatcher, and people who work the wrecker yard. His drivers work on a commission, and he cannot afford to furnish them health insurance.

He told me how the new government health care plan that mandates employers provide employee health benefits would affect him. Leaving out his colorful language, he said, "I am worried to death. This government health care bill and the new taxes on energy and small business will ruin me. I will have to lay off my drivers. They're all young, some with young families, and then they will have no jobs. I will be the lone survivor of the business. Then I won't be able to sell the wreckers I can't use. Who would buy them? I will be putting the trucks on the side of the road next to the kids who have signs saying 'free kittens' and offering 'free wreckers.'"

Now, Sammy has a point. The government-run health care plan will cost jobs and put workers on the street or, shall we say, sitting on the side of the road.

And that's just the way it is.

THE GENOCIDE IN THE DARFUR REGION

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw awareness to the unconscionable human tragedy that is still taking place in the Darfur region. It has been 5 years since the United States Congress declared genocide in Darfur, but thousands continue to perish.

Today I join activists in 34 countries who started fasting in April when eight

organizations were kicked out of Darfur by the Sudanese President, leaving 1.1 million innocent civilians without basic access to food, water, and medicine.

From sunrise to sunset today, I will consume only water to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Darfur. It is an insignificant act relative to the magnitude of the tragedy unfolding there. But I join thousands in this simple act and hope that a critical mass will prick our global consciousness, keep us focused on the hundreds of thousands who have lost their lives.

I especially want to thank the Plymouth United Church of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, members of the Faith Darfur Coalition, who are joining me today.

My fast won't stop the tragedy unfolding in Darfur, but I hope it will carry me deeper into thought and to help me reflect on how to end this tragedy.

DON'T RUSH HEALTH CARE; GET IT RIGHT

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, health care is one of the most important issues that Congress will address this year. We need to make sure we take the time to get it right.

However, congressional leaders have other plans. Rather than taking the time to get it right, they want to spend another \$1.6 trillion on a government health care plan that includes \$500 billion in cuts in Medicare for seniors. And regardless of any arm twisting, no one can change the fact that this plan will slide our Nation deeper into debt. In fact, just 2 days ago, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office ascertained and confirmed that the proposed health care plan would cause a massive spike in the Federal budget deficit, adding as much as \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, more runaway deficits are something that Americans cannot afford. Let's reform our health care system the right way without raising taxes on small business and without adding new debt on our children and our grandchildren.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, the time is now. Members on the party opposite say we need more time, slow down.

But what about six decades of demanding that we fix health care in America? What about the 45 hours of bipartisan debate in three separate House committees on this legislation? What about the 79 House hearings that we've had? What about those people who today face being turned down because they have a preexisting condition? What about those folks who got a

\$10,000 deductible and who are being told that they have got to spend up all that money just to get procedures to maybe perhaps deal with a bladder infection or something like that?

The time is now. The fierce urgency is now upon us. Mr. Speaker, let those who want to delay the care and well-being of others do something else. But for us who care about and have heard the calls of the people, let's pass health care now.

MAKING AMERICANS COMPETITIVE AGAIN

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, this week congressional Democrats will continue to try to rush through a sweeping overhaul of American health care. And this follows the President's expensive stimulus plan currently mired in bureaucracy that has not prevented a national recession despite his pledge to save or create 3.5 million jobs. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask President Obama, where are those jobs?

Now their plan for health care overhaul includes a government-run bureaucracy that would put red tape between patients and their doctors. Far too often patients in our current government-run programs lack real access to a doctor, leaving them no recourse other than to seek emergency room care. Now Democratic proposals suggest lumping millions more Americans into these government-run systems to somehow improve the quality of care. This defies common sense. Instead, health care will be delayed and rationed, leaving millions of Americans without access to a doctor or quality health care.

Republicans have a plan to reduce health care costs for families and businesses and taxpayers and also maintain quality, and that's the best way for Americans to be more competitive and to spur job creation.

HEALTH CARE REFORM AND THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Well, Mr. Speaker, we're being treated today to the mass choir from the insurance industry telling us that we must be afraid and we must go slowly. They've been singing that song since 1935, and we have been trying and trying and the American people are deeper and deeper and deeper in trouble.

Now the insurance choir is really worried, Mr. Speaker, because if we got a public option, they'd have to compete, and they can't stand it.

For the last 12 years or 15 years since Mr. Clinton tried to bring us health care, they have done nothing, not one single thing. They ran the House for 12

years. Not a single proposal, not a single time did they come out here with any way to deal with the people who don't have health insurance. And now we come with a public option and they say, Oh, God, wait, wait, folks, don't be afraid, we will get to it some day.

Now is the day.

THE DEMOCRATS' HEALTH REFORM PLAN: A TRILLION DOLLAR GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that Democrat leaders have put forth legislation under the guise of health care reform that will result in the direct loss of 5 million jobs from crippling new pay-or-play taxes on small businesses.

Our economy is hurting, and Congress should be creating jobs. The Democrats' health care proposal will do the exact opposite. It will take away jobs.

The Democrats have chosen to try to fund a trillion dollar government takeover of our Nation's health care industry in the midst of the worst recession in half a century. Worse than that, they have chosen to make small businesses, long the lifeblood of our economy, bear the brunt of these costs.

The simple fact is that the Democrats' rhetoric is deceptive. It does not match the legislation they have proposed. They use words like "reform" and "choice," but all their plan does is tax and spend to fund new government mandates.

Mr. Speaker, my Democrat colleagues are presenting the American people with a false choice by comparing their proposal with the alternative of doing nothing.

We deserve better. We deserve real reform.

THE HEALTH CARE REFORM PLAN AND WHY WE NEED IT

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I can understand why our friends and colleagues on the other side were very much concerned over the cost estimate that the Congressional Budget Office came up with for this health insurance plan. But there are some things in the CBO report that we also need to be aware of.

First of all, over the next decade, there will actually be a \$6 billion surplus. So in terms of adding to the deficit, it doesn't. It actually adds a surplus. But they also estimate that only about 3 percent of Americans will actually choose the public option. So 97

percent of Americans will continue to be in their private plan. They also estimate that the amount of employer-provided coverage is going to increase. So this is hardly some kind of socialized government takeover of health care when 97 percent will continue to be insured by their own employer.

Now, the real reason why I think this needs to be done is that health insurance premiums have gone up by 3 fold in the past 9 years. And that is why we need health care reform.

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WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. REHBERG. Last week, I joined my colleagues on this floor asking an important question: Where are the jobs? Well, I have found more than 1,300 of them shipped to South Africa and Russia.

General Motors, the company that took millions of tax dollars to save American jobs, recently canceled its contract for domestic palladium with the Stillwater Mine in Montana. Why? Because our environmental laws and regulations are higher, our wages are higher, and our safety laws make domestic palladium a little more expensive in the United States.

So GM, that is "government motors" these days, chose to buy its palladium from mines in South Africa and Russia, mines that pollute the environment and treat workers unfairly. Just this month, an accident in South Africa killed 61 miners.

The government owns GM and could prevent this, but the President's car czar sees no problem sending U.S. jobs to Russia. Maybe that is why he is called a czar.

BROKEN HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM NEEDS REFORM NOW

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address our single most important domestic issue that faces our country, reforming our broken health insurance program.

We spend too much, we receive too little, and we are left worrying that the insurance that we have won't be enough. Nationwide, premiums have doubled in the last 9 years, increasing three times faster than real wages.

Arizona's Eighth Congressional District is especially burdened. In 2008, we had over 950 personal bankruptcies due to health care problems.

We can't perpetuate the status quo. Arizonans need reform that protects us from being denied coverage based on a preexisting condition. We need reform that guarantees care if we lose our job or move. Arizonans need reform that