

\$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

fosters competition and delivers us, the customer, the lowest cost and the best service. Arizonans need reform that puts the power back into the hands of patients and doctors.

Mr. Speaker, we can do this, and we must do this. If you like your plan, you should be able to keep it and your costs should go down and not up. There are savings to be had in our current system, and we must focus on squeezing out every drop.

TORT REFORM NEEDED TO PRODUCE HEALTH CARE SAVINGS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, tort reform would create tens of billions in health care savings. There is no reform of the insane cost and arbitrary rewards of our malpractice system in this bill, because lawyers on the other side won't allow that in the bill.

Instead, according to the Congressional Budget Office, we have the Democrat proposal, with its public option, which will increase costs in excess of \$1 trillion and will cover millions of individuals here illegally, which will drive additional illegal immigration and will drive future costs for health care in this country.

With the subsidized public option and existing businesses shifting out of their current plans into this subsidized public option, as many as 114 million individuals could lose their current insurance, leading to Federal bureaucrats, not patients and doctors, making important decisions about their treatment options.

I urge we revisit this proposal.

PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the most important reasons to pass Obama's health care plan, and that is the current discrimination that Americans with pre-existing conditions face.

Through no fault of their own, perhaps because of a genetic disability passed through by their parents or a childhood disease or a disease later in life, many Americans are uninsurable or only insurable at a very high rate.

That is fundamentally unfair. America is a fair country. We should only have to be responsible for actions that we undertake. Most Americans who suffer from preexisting conditions suffer those because of no fault of their own. It is not fair to make them or their employers pay more simply because of a preexisting condition. This could be you. This could be your son or daughter. This could be any of us who suffer from preexisting conditions.

What the Obama health care reform plan does is it pools the risk together

and prevents discrimination against those who, through no fault of their own, have a preexisting health care condition and ensures that they, too, have access to adequate health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WITHOUT GOVERNMENT CONTROL

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, the United States has the best health care in the world, but if you don't have insurance, you have that sinking pit in your stomach that is scary. It is very scary.

But I think I feel like most Americans. I want insurance that I can own. If I lose my job or move to another job or my job leaves me, I want to be able to make sure that I have something that is portable. I am willing to pay my fair share. I want to be able to be covered for catastrophic events.

But I also want to make sure that others pay their fair share. I want to find insurance, even if I have a pre-existing condition, and I want the freedom to choose the insurance that best fits our family's needs.

But, most of all, I don't want a Washington, DC, politician making decisions that should be made between my wife and our doctor. When our sons or daughters need help, I don't want somebody in Washington, DC, to deny it. If my mother or father needs help, I don't want to wait for a government bureaucrat to decide whether or not they are going to be cared for.

In other words, we must stop the government takeover of health care. We need reform, but we don't need more government.

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, for six decades, we have debated about how to fix health care reform, and now it is time to stop the debates, the denials and the deceit.

We have a uniquely American solution that includes a robust public plan that will lower costs, increase coverage and provide quality care. And for the American people, let's repeat that again: lower costs, increased coverage and provide quality care.

This is really just about what the insurance companies want to fight. Everybody watching the daily news, the evening news, knows that to be true, and the insurance companies will pull no stops to try to defeat health care reform, but we are not going to let them.

Premiums for Americans have doubled in 9 years, three times faster than wages. An American family pays an

extra \$1,100 a year in premiums. It is time for that to stop. Each day, 14,000 people lose health care, and today 60 percent of small business owners, their workers and families have no health care. That is 28 million Americans.

So we can create a plan here that eliminates copays, eliminates the high cost of deductibles for preventive care, caps out-of-pocket expenses and ends the discrimination against preexisting conditions.

WHERE ARE THE PROMISED JOBS?

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, August will be 6 months since the signing of the administration's so-called stimulus plan. Since February, we have been waiting for the jobs that were promised with this bill. We have been waiting so long that my constituents in South Carolina are beginning to wonder if they will ever come.

The President insisted that to save or create up to 4 million jobs, Congress must support this stimulus. Unfortunately, today we continue to lose jobs and pass legislation that will further increase unemployment around the country.

We were told by experts in the administration that unemployment would peak at 8 percent, but, as we all know, national unemployment is now at 9.5 percent. In my home State of South Carolina, it is over 12 percent.

It is a shame that while my constituents are desperately waiting for jobs, the Democratic leadership has made job creation second after bigger government, more borrowing, and ever-increasing spending. They must join Republicans in making our number one priority getting America back to work. My constituents are getting tired of waiting. Where are the jobs?

HEALTH CARE REFORM URGENTLY NEEDED

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our country urgently needs health care reform. Health insurance premiums have more than doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than our wages. The average American family pays an extra \$1,100 per year in premiums to support a broken system, and we still have 47 million people uninsured. Soaring costs have harmed competitiveness with American businesses in the global economy. I know in my own district, I had one company say they moved part of their production to the Netherlands because health care was cheaper in the Netherlands than it was in the United States.

For six decades America has tried to debate what we can do to fix this broken system. We have had 45 hours of bipartisan debate in three separate