

His employees take care of the most vulnerable, frail, and least capable people in our society, folks at the end of life, and cutting the service to them should be not something that we ought to do. Physicians in the group say “first do no harm.” I would argue that this health care plan ought to do the same thing.

#### HEALTH CARE BILL IS GOOD FOR YOU IF YOU'RE OVER 65

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Think about what this health care bill will do for you if you are over 65 years old, or if you love somebody who is over 65 years old. If you are over 65, or you love someone who is over 65, a mother or father, then take a minute to think about that.

Here is what it will do for you: First of all, it will dramatically reduce—and in most cases eliminate—copayments for you. That's right, for you. Because the Democrats understand that a \$10 or \$20 or \$50 copayment, that is a lot of money for you. And if it keeps you from going to the doctor when you need to get help, when you need medical care, that's a shame, it shouldn't happen. So this bill takes care of that.

The second thing that the bill does for you is that it eliminates the doughnut hole, that's right, the doughnut hole that torments people into choosing between paying for their rent or paying for the medicine that they need to stay alive. That will no longer be true. The doughnut hole is eliminated.

This bill is good for you if you are 65 or over; it is good for your mother or your father if you're not. That matters a lot because the Democrats care about you.

#### JOBS, JOBS, JOBS, JOBS: TAKE 2

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the administration and this Congress spent over \$1 trillion on a so-called stimulus bill, and they laid down a benchmark for what would constitute success. They did it. And according to their own benchmark, that was that unemployment would be capped at 8 percent, and that there would be an immediate creation of 3.5 million jobs.

So where are those 3.5 million jobs that we were promised? Not only have they not been created, an additional 2 million jobs or more have been lost since that bill was passed. And unemployment wasn't capped at 8 percent, it is over 9.5 percent. Again, their own numbers. So, what has been the response to this obvious dismal failure? More of the same, unfortunately; more borrowing, more spending of your hard-earned money.

Now, their health care bill will cost Americans an additional \$1.2 trillion, additionally, cut Medicare for senior citizens by hundreds of billions of dollars—that's in the bill—and will result in the loss of an additional 4.7 million jobs.

You know, again, common sense; it's time to stop wasting taxpayers' money, stop irresponsible borrowing. It's time to focus on jobs creation.

#### HEALTH CARE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, skyrocketing private health insurance costs are already crippling small businesses. Last week, I sat down with one of my constituents to hear about her situation. Kristine Effaldana is a small business owner and employs nine workers at her company. She has been paying the full cost of premiums for her employees because she knows how important health insurance is.

Unfortunately, Kristine recently got a call from her broker saying the premiums for covering her nine employees are going up 20 percent in August. Now Kristine is forced to pass on part of that cost to her employees, hire fewer employees, or stop offering them health care altogether. That is the status quo we're dealing with, and it is unacceptable.

We must do more to help small business owners who are trying to do the right thing by providing for their employees. Congress must pass comprehensive health reform to ease their burden.

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#### A MISGUIDED HEALTH CARE EXPERIMENT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose efforts by the majority to rush through this Chamber a misguided health care experiment that will cost jobs and put the government in charge of health care. The Democrats' bill will tax small businesses, raise already sky-high unemployment in my State, and cut health care for seniors to pay for government-run health care. This will limit consumer choices, lower quality, increase wait times and imperil the doctor-patient relationship by empowering Federal bureaucrats to make health care decisions. The trillion-and-a-half pricetag will increase the already crushing debt some in Congress have been piling on our children and grandchildren over my objections.

The best way to help expand health coverage to the uninsured is to make

health care more affordable. Two of the easiest and most effective ways to do that would be to encourage preventive care and enact medical liability reform. I urge my colleagues to reject this government takeover of health care.

#### AMERICA'S RECOVERY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, many commissions who have advised Congress advise that the unemployment rate would continue to climb even after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act were approved, simply because neglect and measures that put us into a deep hole where an administration spent down a surplus into a deep deficit was going to take a while to recover from. And so now with the investments made through that Recovery Act, I am very hopeful that in my district we will get good news, as GE, which is corporately headquartered in my district, has made application for some of the DOE moneys.

Because of accountability and transparency, the President is right to make certain that all of these moneys being released are greatly accounted for. Battery investment, battery advance manufacturing in battery worlds, will allow for a diversity of battery manufacturing that will allow us not only to have these batteries used for energy generation purposes, but for actually providing for the resources for transportation fleets, both large and small, and certainly working on investments that will restore intermittent energy supplies.

#### COMPROMISE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic leadership is reportedly trying to find a compromise on health care reform. The only problem is they're compromising with themselves rather than with Republicans. Democrats have been trying to blame their failure to find broad consensus on health care reform on Republicans, but this ignores the facts. The facts are three committees and the House Democratic leadership sat down and drafted a bill with no Republican input. These same Democratic leaders have then made changes to the bill based on concerns raised by other Democrats. Now, Democratic leaders are continuing their negotiation with a different group of Democrats in an attempt to secure 218 votes in their own caucus.

Since Republicans aren't invited to these negotiations, here's some free advice from the House floor: If you're having this much trouble getting the majority of your conference to support

your bill, then you're going to have an even bigger problem with the American people, particularly when they find out that this bill undercuts the President's promise to allow them to continue their health care if they like it.

Republicans have many ideas on how to reform health care and make insurance more affordable for small businesses and families and reduce costs across the system. Let's scrap this partisan plan and start over with what we all agree on and get health care right for the American people.

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#### SMALL BUSINESSES ARE DROWNING UNDER THE RISING COSTS OF HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting what I'm listening to. This sounds like 15 years ago when President Clinton tried to reform the health care system. This time we must do it. The increase just for small businesses to cover their employees has gone up 129 percent since the year 2000. Workers pay more. Small business workers pay an average of 18 percent more in premiums. How far does this have to go before we have the common sense to change it?

If anybody disagrees with the bill, read it. That's the first thing we must do. Read the bill. I have read the bill. It's a good bill. It's so unfortunate that the influence on this House is coming from insurance companies who have been in control of health care for the last 30 years. We must change that. They've given out \$100 million around here. We must change it. The people need this health care reform right now.

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#### READ THE HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic leadership has been demanding that we pass health care reform this week. That's very, very important, even though the bill doesn't take effect for 5 years. This is the bill. My constituents have been asking me to read the bill and I've been working on it. We now have three iterations of this bill. I would like to advise my senior friends at home to read it. Let me tell you, page 331, read about Medicare Advantage reforms and how they're going to take \$168 billion out of Medicare Advantage to help pay for some other people. Read a little bit on page 425, 424, start reading about how they're going to have you, at 65, go in and have a planning session with a health care consultant on how you're going to die. Please, read the bill.

#### HEALTH CARE IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, 47 million uninsured in the wealthiest and the most powerful country in the world is unconscionable. Health care should not be a privilege, which is what it is right now; it should be a right. The average American pays an extra \$1,100 a year in premiums to support a broken system. Premiums have doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than wages. Our health care reform plan does not, mind you, it does not call for a government takeover. We intend to lower cost, have no more copays or deductibles for preventive care, and an annual cap on out-of-pocket expenses. If you like your doctor or your plan you can keep it. And yes, a real robust public option keeps health care costs down for those who choose private insurance.

It's time to take the profit-making insurance industry out of making health care decisions. Medical decisions should be made between a patient and a doctor. Medical decisions should not be made based on who profits. Profit motives and making health decisions will not provide for affordable health care for every man, woman and child.

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#### RUSSIAN ROULETTE

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask why the Obama administration and the liberal Democrats in this Congress are playing Russian roulette with the welfare of the American people. This administration and the Democrats in this Congress seem not to care about jobs but put all of their time into spending as much as possible in as little amount of time as possible. Cap-and-trade, or the national energy tax passed by Democrats last month is the equivalent of a \$3,000 annual tax on every single American family. And it's estimated that over 2.3 million jobs are going to be lost because of it.

And the liberal health care gamble, it's not even Russian roulette when it comes to government-run health care. It's like jumping off a 20-story building and thinking it's not going to kill you. The Democratic health care is economic suicide. The health care bill would impose a 5.4 percent surtax on 1.2 million small businesses, and it's going to increase the Federal deficit by \$239 billion over 10 years, and most devastating, it's going to kill up to 4.7 million jobs because of the burdens it places on small business.

If you want to get every American health care, then get every American back to work. America runs on jobs and small business. Less government, more Americanism. That's what will save this country.

#### WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, DOLLARS AND CENTS OR LIFE?

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there are some Republicans and some Blue Dog Democrats who care more about protecting the profits of insurance companies than they do about bringing health care reform to the Nation. Health care premiums have doubled in 9 years and are growing at three times the rate of wages. Meanwhile, 46 million people remain uninsured, and they can't see a doctor to take care of their chronic condition like breast cancer, like diabetes. So what's more important? Dollars and cents or life? I am pro-life, and that's why I support health care reform.

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#### HEALTH CARE THAT DOESN'T KILL JOBS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague. I'm pro-life too. That's why I oppose the Democrat health plan. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of a major recession, the House is considering health care legislation that will place new punitive taxes on small businesses. We need job creation, not job destruction. And small businesses are our best hope for emerging from this economic downturn, but not if we tax them out of their job-creating potential. I've heard from scores of small business owners in North Carolina who are struggling to keep their businesses running, and who want nothing to do with the taxes and burdensome government mandates in the House health care legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we need health care reform in America. I support reform that puts patients first and that won't destroy small businesses. Republicans have a better solution that won't put the government in charge of people's health care, that will make sure we bring down the cost of health care for all Americans, and that ensures affordable access for all Americans and is pro-life because it will not put seniors in a position of being put to death by their government.

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#### THE RECOVERY ACT IS GOOD FOR NEVADA

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, families in southern Nevada have been hit hard during this economic recession. Unemployment is at a 25-year high and our tourism industry has struggled as the national economy has slowed. But already, the economic recovery package that Congress passed is beginning to