

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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

provide assistance to 95 percent of Nevadans in the form of tax cuts.

Over the past few months, the Making Work Pay tax credit has put extra money in the pocket of workers. Nevada has already received more than \$75 million to extend unemployment benefits for those struggling to find work. Seniors and veterans have received a \$250 recovery payment, and schools in Nevada got \$340 million to keep teachers from being laid off and to develop programs. Funding through the recovery package has also helped Nevada's efforts to create a clean energy economy. Just yesterday, \$13.8 million was announced from the Department of Energy to help fund energy initiatives that will lead us to the next steps to creating clean energy jobs. Clearly the Recovery Act has helped the people in Nevada.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. For months now my constituents in western New York have been asking, where are the jobs? Well, take a look around. Are they in the recently passed national energy tax that devoted more than 50 of its 1,300 pages to lightbulb regulation and just two paragraphs on carbon-free nuclear energy? Or are they in the thousand-page, government-sponsored health care proposal without so much as a mention for malpractice liability reform to dramatically reduce premiums on struggling Americans? Or maybe they're in the recently passed \$700 million welfare program for wild horses.

The majority has shown it doesn't know how to create new jobs, outside of those for new Federal bureaucrats, but it certainly knows how to create new burdens for our children and grandchildren. This week alone, our Treasury is set to sell off a record \$205 billion in debt. Let's start working together to implement responsible solutions to the serious challenges facing our Nation.

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WHO DO YOU TRUST MORE, POLITICIANS OR DOCTORS?

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week at the President's press conference, the American people got a firsthand glimpse of the attitude they can expect if, in fact, there is a Federal takeover of health care.

When the President made this incredible statement, when he said in that press conference that some doctors will take out a child's tonsils not because it's in the best interest of that patient but because they make more money, it makes you think about this:

If you go out and talk to any 100 people across this country and ask them the question, "Who do you trust more, politicians or your doctors?" my guess is 100 percent of them would say their doctors. Yet the President made that statement.

What we need in this health care debate and what we need in health care reform is a model that says that you and your family and your doctor will make your health care decisions, not some Federal board in Washington that thinks they're all-knowing.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

They're certainly not in the so-called "stimulus package" that passed this Congress and that hasn't created any jobs. In fact, we've lost millions of jobs since that package passed. They are certainly not in the cap-and-tax legislation that passed this Congress 6 weeks ago. That legislation will cost millions of American jobs. Mr. Speaker, they most certainly are not in this so-called "health care bill" that the Democrats are offering today, which will cost an estimated 4.7 million jobs as employers find they can't pay the taxes being imposed upon them and as we see those jobs going overseas to countries where they can afford to do business.

This is not the right way to preserve the choice for the American people in their health care. This is not the right way to make sure that our health care in this country is available to the many, many hundreds of millions of people who receive it today. We need to reform our health care system with legislation that deals with medical malpractice reform, with association health plans, with things that cut down on the cost before we address this massive tax increase.

ASSUMING NO RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, in the debate that we've had over health care, we Republicans have attempted to try and communicate our concerns to the American people. We have developed a simple chart that explains the bureaucratic morass that will exist between you, the individual—the patient—and your doctor, but we've been told we can't send this out because the majority party objects to it.

First of all, they said they didn't know whether it was true. Secondly, they said we didn't somehow substantiate everything. Thirdly, they don't like "House Democrats' health plan"

here. So they suggested that maybe we should put on some sort of disclaimer, so I've come up with a disclaimer. We've tried to figure out what will work:

"The Democratic Party assumes no responsibility for providing this information to the American people." Maybe they don't like that. "The majority party assumes no responsibility for providing this information to the American people." "The House Democrats assume no responsibility." Finally, maybe this is what we ought to put up here, Mr. Speaker: "The President and the House Democrats assume no responsibility for providing this information to the American people because they know, if the American people knew this is what would happen to them and that this is what would be put between them and their doctors, they wouldn't support it."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, while we can argue over the details of health care reform legislation, we know one thing for sure: Costs are guaranteed to increase if we do nothing. The status quo is unsustainable and unacceptable. Unfair trade deals and skyrocketing health care costs have devastated manufacturing in my State of Michigan over the past decade.

Last month, in my district, I heard from a small manufacturer at a health care forum in Tecumseh, Michigan. Karalyn Roesch told me that her manufacturing firm employs seven people in Lenawee County and that it covers 100 percent of her employees' health care insurance costs.

She said, "We are trying to do the right thing for our employees. Yet we have to compete with those who provide little or no health care."

She said that a quality, affordable health care system that covered every American would not only provide needed care for the uninsured but that it would also help level the playing field for small business owners like her.

It's time to put partisan politics aside on this issue and put companies like Roesch Manufacturing first. We need a uniquely American health care system that costs less and that covers more to help small businesses compete in our global economy.

A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER IS NOT THE SOLUTION

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I was a small business owner for 21 years. There is no question that it's time to reform the health care system, but a government takeover is not the solution. Putting a government bureaucrat