

health care in this country. I have heard from countless Iowans about the need to change the current system. I have also heard from Iowans that we need true reform.

Just today, the University of Iowa, the Iowa Health Care Collaborative, and the Concord Coalition sent me a letter. They stated, "We believe that the primary focus for all policymakers should be improving the value in health care." I agree.

Last week, the Iowa Democratic delegation, along with many others, reached a compromise with leadership that improves the value in health care. I want to thank leadership and their staff for their work. The compromise will provide a significant cost savings, and it will fix a broken Medicare payment system so that we are rewarding quality of care and not quantity. Iowa has been a leader in quality care, and I am glad that Iowa and other high-quality, low-cost regions will be rewarded for doing what is right for patients.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, my office has been flooded with letters, faxes, phone calls, and e-mails from all types of citizens throughout northwest Florida. The messages all say the same thing: stop the government takeover of our health care system.

Now, the majority party's proposed legislation costs over \$1 trillion. It would increase the deficit by \$240 billion. It would actually raise the cost of health care for an American family.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to reform the American health care system. Americans want more choices for health care, not fewer choices. They want to choose the doctors they see and when they want to see them, and they don't want their medical decisions made by a faceless bureaucrat here in Washington, D.C. Floridians are not willing to have their health care rationed, and they do not want the government takeover of health care that the majority in Congress is proposing.

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HEALTH CARE PURCHASING EXCHANGE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, when a Member of Congress is sworn into office, you get a pin, you get a voting card, and you get access to a health care purchasing exchange that's operated by the Federal employees health plan. Every Member of Congress has the ability to buy into or to choose a plan through the Federal employee

health plan which, when you boil down the health care reform bill that has passed the Ways and Means Committee and the Education Committee, is exactly what is going to be before this House.

For example, the minority leader from Ohio has, as a Member of Congress, the opportunity to choose 13 different plans under the Federal employee health plan. That's what the Obama health care proposal plans to do for all Americans. So when the time comes for the vote, ask your Member of Congress whether they're prepared to give to the people of America exactly what the people of America give to Congress, and that vote should be "yes."

TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the issue this week is health care and jobs, jobs, jobs. You know, a friend of mine who employs many people in my district, and he also provides very good health benefits, said to me recently that the policy proposals coming out of Washington are impeding job creation and scaring people. He's right. And there are five issues that are driving his concern:

First, a stimulus bill that spends too much, borrows too much and delivers too few jobs; two, a budget that doubles the national debt in 5 years and triples it in 10 years; three, a card check bill that is undemocratic and imposes binding arbitration which will increase health care and other costs; four, a national energy tax cap-and-trade that will cost 66,000 jobs in Pennsylvania and jacked-up electric bills, natural gas bills, and prices at the gasoline pump for consumers; and, five, now a House health care bill with enormous tax increases and mandates on all businesses and businesses of all sizes.

Enough is enough. Time to let Washington get out of the way and let job creators do what they do best: create jobs.

TIME TO MOVE NOW

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. The American people know something for sure, and that is premiums have doubled over the last 9 years growing three times faster than what we've seen in wages. The American families know that they're spending more than \$1,000 a month than what they have had to do in the past.

So let's talk about what really the American solution is. It's having lower costs for consumers to no longer have

copays or deductibles for preventative care, to have an annual cap to end that cap on out-of-pocket expenses, to end the rate of increases for preexisting conditions and, of course, looking at group rates.

We're ready for action. We've had six decades of discussions; we've had 45 hours of bipartisan debate, and 79 House hearings. It's time and it's time to move now.

STOP THE RACE TO GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, last night I made thousands of phone calls across my district in a tele-town hall meeting, and I listened to my constituents, and two phrases emerged. The first one was "fear." They're afraid of the recklessness that would allow us to begin a massive new program the experts agree will not reduce health care costs and will devastate the economy before we fix Medicare, which they know will be bankrupt in just 8 years.

They're afraid of the arrogance that leads some to conclude that a government committee or bureaucrat will make a better decision about an individual's health care than that individual can make with their doctor.

And they're also afraid of the shortsightedness of creating a plan that will result in rationing health care to seniors and creating longer lines and waits for the procedures they need.

But they're also grateful. They're grateful for those of us who will listen to them to bring some common sense and balance to the health care debate by stopping this race to a government takeover of their health care system and that will work instead for a system that finally puts our patients first.

THE "HEALTH" IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we must put the health back into health care. Building a culture of wellness, including good nutrition and incentivizing prevention, moving from system-centered care to patient-centered care, and creating new insurance models can help meet this goal. These are the right solutions for strengthening America's health care, and they should be the basic components of an honest national debate.

The current debate is framed incorrectly, focusing on a loosely defined public option. This vast new government arrangement of our health care system may transfer millions of Americans against their will, Mr. Speaker, from their current insurance to a government plan and will add to our unsustainable fiscal conditions. It will

not resolve the underlying problems driving costs for small businesses and families.

We have the opportunity in the next few weeks to do something right and good for the American people, to strengthen our Nation's health care by improving health outcomes while reducing costs and protecting vulnerable persons.

READ THE BILL

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

Mr. SCALISE. On the heels of the failed stimulus bill that added another roughly \$1 trillion of debt to our Nation's debt, also leading to about another two million people losing their jobs in this country and then that cap-and-trade energy tax proposal that literally would run millions of jobs out of our country, most Americans across our Nation are saying, Where are the jobs?

And, instead, the latest proposal by President Obama and Speaker PELOSI is this attempt to mandate a government takeover of our health care system.

And, you know, the President goes out and he gives these speeches. And he says under his plan if you like the plan that you have, you can keep it. Well, unfortunately, I don't think the President has read his bill because if you look right here in section 102 of the bill, it says that the government health care czar is going to be able to take away your health care plan even if you like it. It's right here in the bill.

Another part, Mr. Speaker, of what the President says is anybody who makes under \$250,000 a year won't pay anymore in new taxes. Once again, maybe the President hasn't read his own bill, but in his health care bill right here in section 401, tax on individuals without acceptable health care, \$29 billion in new taxes.

Read the bill.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Democrat majority's government-run health care plan. That is a phrase that the Speaker of the House does not want us to use. She's told us we can't use it in our mail. We're supposed to use the "public option."

Well, to use the word that the President apparently likes, the American people aren't stupid. They know it's government-run health insurance, and they don't want it. They know the Democrat majority proposes to cut costs by rationing care by deciding whether or not you get to go to the doctor, which doctor you get to go to;

if you need a specialist, which specialist you need to go to, when you need to go; if you need surgery, when you get to go, if you get to go.

And most importantly, end-of-life care for our seniors. The government wants to decide whether or not certain seniors will get procedures they need to enhance their quality of life and whether or not the computer model determines that that's not the highest and best use of their health care dollars.

American people don't want that. They want real reform just like the Republicans do. We want to have cost control, we want quality, we want access with real reform like tort reform.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

HEALTH CARE AND TAXES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that real health care reform is a necessity; but in the haste to get this done, the wrong approach to achieve this worthy goal would be to increase taxes, especially on our small businesses. These vital small business owners are already straining not to cut jobs and wages. Most small business owners want to offer health insurance to their employees, but they simply cannot because the already-inflated costs just continue to increase.

What we need is true health care reform that brings down the cost of care in our country. We find creative ways to hide the actual costs of taxes and mandates. That makes no sense for Americans, no sense for our small businesses, and certainly no sense for our future generations who will be saddled with a lot of debt.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE ARE THE JOBS

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people have every right to ask where the jobs are. They know we are losing a half million jobs each month, and yet they saw this Democratic majority pass an energy bill that will raise utility rates for every American. Now they see the Obama White House and the Democrats pushing to drastically cut

Medicare and massively raise taxes on small businesses to pay for their government takeover of health care. The people know that will mean millions more jobs lost.

We need tax credits, Mr. Speaker, to help make health care more affordable and accessible, not massive tax hikes. We need job creation. We need more jobs, not massive layoffs caused by massive tax increases.

PROTECTING LIVES, KEEP IT OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I agree that the cost of health care has become expensive for my constituents, too expensive for my constituents and all Americans. What we need is to reform the current system and not turn it over to the government.

Letting patients choose the coverage that reaches their health care needs should be the focus. This is not a one-size-fits-all conclusion. Just ask my constituents Brad and Christy Norwood. They became the proud parents of Brycen in May of 2008. At birth, he appeared to be a healthy baby boy, but during a routine exam, a nurse discovered a heart murmur that was keeping blood from reaching his lower extremities. One week later, he underwent surgery to correct the problem; and thankfully today, Brycen is a happy, healthy 1-year-old.

His parents hate to think that if the proposed health care plan had been in place, the decision about Brycen would have to go through a government bureaucracy and could have possibly taken too long to save his life.

Let's not put Brycen's life or anyone else's in the hands of a government bureaucrat.

HEALTH CARE MONTH

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

Mr. MCHENRY. The Democrats' health care bill is bad legislation. But don't take my word for it. All you have to do is look at the chaos on the other side of the aisle as their leadership freely admits August would be like kryptonite to their proposal. If they truly believe this legislation was a cure-all for health care reform, they would relish the opportunity to send their Members home to build public support for it. But, no, the Democrat leadership is in desperation mode because they know their bill will not hold up under public scrutiny.

So let's tap the brakes, let's engage our constituents and the American people in this discussion about our goals for health care reform. August can become health care month in America if only the Democrat leadership will listen to reason and we can engage our constituents in the debate.