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AMERICANS LOSE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE UNDER DEMOCRAT PLAN

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in this body are negotiating behind closed doors the most sweeping changes to American health care since the 1960s. An article on CNN's Web site today explains the dangers of what happens when one party negotiates with itself in secret.

Entitled "Five Freedoms You Would Lose in Health Care Reform," it explains that under the plan drafted by House Democrats, families will lose choices and control of their health care. According to the CNN story, Americans would, one, lose the freedom to choose what is in their insurance plan; two, lose the freedom to be rewarded for healthy living or pay their real costs; three, lose the freedom to choose high deductible coverage; four, lose the freedom to keep their existing plan; and, five, lose the freedom to choose their doctors.

Americans need more health care choices, not fewer. House Democrats should scrap this plan and negotiate in a bipartisan effort to help increase choices and reduce costs.

COLLUDING TO KEEP HEALTH CARE COSTS HIGH

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans are mounting a fabulous defense of the health insurance industry, the party of do nothing is saying reform and health care is not needed.

They talk about competition, except they ignore the fact that the health insurance industry is exempt from anti-trust law, so they can and they do collude to jack up the rates—two times the rate of inflation. Profits are up 250 percent in the last 10 years, while wages and earnings are down for most Americans and small businesses. But they ignore that little fact when they talk about we can't have a public plan. That would hurt competition. No, it will bring competition for once to the health insurance industry.

Then they forget about a few other things. They collude also to exclude individuals from coverage because you have been sick or you might get sick. Preexisting conditions or anything an insurance company doesn't like, they can deny you coverage, even if you are willing to pay their full premium.

They can and do, insurance companies, their friends, deny people renewals because they had the temerity to get sick after paying their premiums.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The time of the gentleman has expired.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must ask all Members to bear in mind that the principle of heeding the gavel that sounds at the expiration of their time is one of the most essential ingredients of the decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.

No Member should labor under a misapprehension that ignoring the gavel at the expiration of one's time can be a demonstration of civil disobedience. To the contrary, such a willful discourtesy is an act of stark incivility and has been the object of a formal call to order.

The Chair enlists the understanding and cooperation of all the Members at this point.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. HELLER. Mr. Speaker, August 17th is an important date. Yes, it is my wife's birthday. Thanks for remembering that. But it is also the six-month anniversary of the stimulus. Let's go back six months.

Mr. Speaker, remember when the President promised that unemployment, if this bill passed, would not go above 8 percent? Maybe that was hope.

Remember when the Speaker said jobs, jobs, jobs? Maybe that was hope.

Remember when the majority leader said we would see immediate results if this particular piece of legislation passed? They were all hollow promises, hollow promises for bad legislation.

This August 17th, my wife is going to ask: Where are the jobs? I am going to ask: Where are the jobs? Nevadans are going to ask: Where are the jobs? Americans are going to ask: Where are the jobs?

Happy birthday, sweetheart.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WANTED, NOT A REVOLUTION

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the health care concerns my constituents shared with me last night at a town hall meeting.

Overwhelmingly, I heard from those who legitimately worry that this proposal will force them from the private insurance they enjoy now. One caller told me that she was able to provide for her medically fragile child only because of her employer-provided health

care, which she described as "expensive, but worth every penny." She fears that under this so-called reform bill, her coverage options would be limited and her child will be denied the care that she needs.

Many of my constituents who are remarkably well informed about this complex legislation are also outraged by its cost. They question how \$1.6 trillion in new spending and 53 new bureaucracies will make health care better. One caller, a Federal employee, was dismayed at the thought of dealing with the same sort of bureaucrats at his doctor's office that he dealt with at his job.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have spoken. They want commonsense solutions to lower costs, increased accessibility and improved care, and they know that this bill is not it. In short, they want health care reform, not a revolution.

PROPOSED HEALTH CARE REFORM A JOB KILLER

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I was at a famous Cubs game and watched as the Chicago Cubs were leading up to this crescendo. They were playing the Florida Marlins, and it actually looked for a minute as if the Chicago Cubs were going to go to the World Series. The announcer began to say, Well, there are five outs left and the Cubs are going to go to the World Series, and it got incredibly exciting. And then there was a bobble over in left field, and the rest is history. I mean, the air went out of Wrigley Field like nothing I had ever seen before. Just whoosh.

Well, that is exactly what happened in the Ways and Means Committee when the Director of CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, came in and said, and I am paraphrasing now, the following about the Democrat majority's plan:

Number one, you are rushing this. You haven't given us time to evaluate it; but, number two, there is nothing that indicates that this is going to save money. In fact, it looks like a budget buster.

Again, whoosh, all the energy left the room.

Americans know that we can do better. Americans know this is a job destroyer. Let's do the right thing.

FIXING HEALTH CARE

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Now, imagine if you called your doctor because you were very sick and immediately he wrote a prescription and scheduled you for surgery and sent you on your way. And you said, But, Doc, I have got a medical file that is three

inches thick. It is 1,200 pages long. Don't you want to examine me, read it, ask some questions, order some tests? And your doctor says, No, I don't have time for this because I am working on a deadline.

We all need to agree and work together. Our health care system does need reform and we want to reform it. Let's work together to fix it, not just come up with an arbitrary deadline.

We have to allow you to buy insurance from anywhere in America, have basic plans that cover what families really need and worry about, have transparency about quality and cost, and provide some financial assistance to those that need it. And, finally, let's make insurance personal, portable and permanent.

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, throughout the year there has been a drumbeat, a relentless drumbeat of expensive stimulus packages, takeover of the car companies, financial bailouts, and cap-and-trade. And the drumbeat continues today, more government control, more government spending, higher taxes, fewer choices, especially for small business.

Now the Democratic leadership wants to take over one-sixth of our GDP, our health care. They want government to take over health care. It is a recipe for economic disaster. Even worse, it is a disaster for patients, because a government-run system will always ration care, reduce quality, and raise costs. It will put a Federal bureaucrat between you and your doctor.

Let's put patients, not the government, first. As long as we continue this government-knows-best approach, we are not going to get health care reform or the kind of economic recovery the American people need. We will only get bigger government, rationing, and diminished quality of care.

Stop the drumbeat of more government. Stop the takeover of government health care.

A BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM IS NEEDED

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Members on both sides of the aisle are in favor of health care delivery reform. We want universal access. We want universal coverage. But what the Democratic majority has given us in their rush to get something through this body by the end of the week is 1,100 pages of universal nightmare, and this is not what the American people want.

They don't want these long lines, these long queues, this rationing of

care. They don't want nonelected government bureaucrats telling health care providers what they can give and what they can offer and what they can prescribe to take care of their patients.

Mr. Speaker, we can come together in a bipartisan way and rewrite this H.R. 3200 and do it for the American people, bring down the cost of health care, and promote universal access. That is what we need to do. We need to do it in a bipartisan way, and I recommend to the Democratic leadership, let's go back to the drawing table.

GIVE AMERICANS A HEALTH CARE PLAN THAT WON'T MAKE THEM SICK

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the latest numbers we have are for 2007. You divide the total number of households in America into the total amount of money spent on Medicare and Medicaid, it is \$9,200 for every household in America.

We are not getting our money's worth with this government-run health care. And now the President wants to spend another \$1 trillion? Well, there is a Republican plan that we can't get from legislative counsel to bring to the floor or even have CBO score it that would say, you know what? For the first time ever, we are going to give senior citizens complete control of their health care. We are going to give them cash money in a health savings account they control with a debit card, not the government, not an insurance company, and then we will buy them the best private insurance you can have for everything above that.

That gives them complete coverage; no wrap-arounds they have to buy, no surplus insurance. That is a plan that won't make America sick.

STOP THE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with dozens of doctors in east Texas to discuss health care, and, with only one exception, every one of them said that they had recommended to their children that they not follow in their footsteps and practice medicine. Health care is losing our best and our brightest due to its threatened takeover by the Federal Government.

Republicans have commonsense solutions to our health care challenges to ensure that all Americans have access to the high quality health care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford.

When it comes to health care decisions, no government bureaucrat should ever come between you and your doctor, and if you are happy with

your current plan, Republicans want you to be able to keep it.

In contrast, Speaker PELOSI has proposed a government-run health care rationing system paid for by higher taxes on small businesses and borrowing yet more money from the Chinese, while sending the \$1 trillion bill to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, if you loved the government takeover of our banks, of our auto companies, of our mortgage companies and AIG, you will love the takeover of your family's health care.

INITIATE REAL DEBATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, right now we are debating one of the most important issues facing our country today, health care reform. There is no doubt that our current system must be reformed.

Unfortunately, rather than conducting a meaningful debate on how to improve access and quality and lower the cost of health care, the majority is making deals behind closed doors and going through the yellow pages to figure out who they can tax in order to pay for the \$1 trillion bill they propose.

The majority asserts that their bill will insure more people, but the cost to America will not only be in dollars and cents; the bill will dramatically alter our health care, which is 20 percent of our economy, through the creation of a government-run public option. For those with private insurance in the short time before they are forced into a public plan, a government plan will still dictate what government service they can and cannot have.

This is unacceptable. The only people in the room making health care decisions should be you and your doctor, not a Washington bureaucrat.

I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided and dangerous proposal and initiate a real debate on health care reform.

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WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, we are rapidly coming up on the 6-month anniversary of the stimulus bill. The question all across America, the question in New Jersey, and the question in my district in south Jersey is, Where are the jobs? We had jobs that were promised, good jobs that were promised, jobs that were going to be available. The unemployment rate was going to come down. The families in New Jersey are hurting. The families in south Jersey are hurting. Our unemployment rate in the State of New Jersey is 9.2 percent; and in most of my counties, it's well above 11 percent.