

THE GOVERNMENT IS AN UNFAIR COMPETITOR TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, there is much to agree on in health care reform. There is also something that we very much disagree on. The disagreement has to do with the public option, and it has to do with the question about whether private insurance companies need the discipline of the competition from a public sector plan or a publicly provided plan. If you've ever been in business and you've watched the government come into competition with you, you know that it is an unfair competitor because the government has the ability to subsidize its operations. The result is that when government enters an area that the private sector is working in, the government ends up becoming the provider there.

That's what we fear would happen in the midst of a public option: the private insurance companies would be forced out; the public option would become really the only game in town. And the result would become pretty quickly a government system of providing insurance and health care. But there's much else that we can agree on.

So the question is, Can the folks who control this House leave aside just one thing and then we cooperate?

UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE HIGHER IF IT WAS NOT FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILL

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a debate about when the world began; and there are some who think it began 4,000 years ago and some who think that it began earlier. We have a rare specimen today of people who think it began on January 20, 2009, who do not think anything happened before that, who do not remember the years of Republican rule where many things went wrong.

Now they're talking about the economic recovery bill. Ben Bernanke, who was the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, appointed by George Bush—that happened before January 20, so you may not have remembered it, I would say to my friends on the other side—but he told the House Financial Services Committee that unemployment would be higher if it was not for the economic recovery bill. That was Ben Bernanke. In his report, he twice cited examples of it.

And as to this argument that the bill was of no use, I debated this bill in February with Republican Members of Congress when they scoffed at the notion that there was something in it for police and fire. I was very pleased today to be notified that 23 police officers will be added to two of the com-

munities in my district, Fall River and New Bedford, directly as a result of the economic recovery plan. Magnify that nationally, it's 10,000.

MEMBERS NEED TO READ THE HEALTH CARE BILL BEFORE VOTING ON IT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, what was one of the major concerns with the nonstimulus spending bill and the national energy tax that have flown through the House? Well, you know what it was, Mr. Speaker. Nobody read the bill. So what should we do with this health care bill? Well, I would suggest that we read the bill; and as somebody has said already, There is just a draft form.

But what's in that draft? It would raise taxes on individuals, small businesses, and employers by \$818 billion and spend \$1.6 trillion to create a system that even the Congressional Budget Office admits would raise, not lower, health costs. The bill would ban the purchase of private individual health coverage as part of a government takeover of health care that independent entities confirm would result in over 100 million Americans losing their private, personal coverage.

The House Republicans are for health reform that works. We have a plan for reform that expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose health care that fits their needs, not government needs. House Republicans support patients. We will oppose any plan that puts Washington bureaucrats between patients and the care they need. Fewer choices, higher costs, I don't think so.

THE ACTIONS OF THIS CONGRESS ARE DESTROYING THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. LATHAM. Sometimes I wonder if anybody on the other side of the aisle ever goes home because I tell you, doing town meetings, we have three or four times more people than normal show up. And I will tell you what, they are scared to death of what they see happening in this country.

When they look at the \$787 billion stimulus package that has no benefit to anyone today, when they look at people voting for cap-and-trade without even having read the bill, only to find out that in Iowa that would cost 17,000 jobs for each of the next 20 years and 2.5 million jobs nationwide for the next 20 years, they go, What's going on? When are we going to get our government back? When are people going to listen to us and be responsive?

What this debate is all about is our children and our grandchildren and what we're going to leave them for the

future; what it's going to do for someone who wants an opportunity to start a small business, to grow and prosper and be part of this economy. We are destroying the future of this country with what this Congress is doing.

EVERY DAY MUCH IS LOST FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I was watching from my office and felt the need to come down. I don't have a fancy chart, as we've been seeing periodically. But let me give you some facts. We're going to be adjourning for 37 days at the end of this week. For 12 years, Mr. Speaker, our friends on the other side of the aisle had this Chamber; and the only thing we got out of it was the most miserable prescription drug program and nothing more than a boondoggle for seniors.

But while we're home and having our town hall meetings, here are the real facts that I hope not just my friends will listen to because they're important. Every day for the next 37 days, 400 people per day will die because they don't have health care—14,800 Americans, 34 people every day on an average every congressional district. Put that on a chart. For the next 37 days, 14,000 people every day will lose their health care, 518,000 Americans will lose their health care, 1,190 per day. We need to have more than town hall meetings.

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PUBLIC OPTION WILL ERADICATE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am sad that the Democratic majority is trying to rush this bill through before we've had a chance to go home to our districts to listen to our constituents, to share ideas with them, to get their views on this, one of the most important issues we will ever decide here in Congress.

One of the things that is being said really puzzles me. The President is saying, for the public plan, you have to have it to keep the private sector honest, to bring more competition. If that's the case, Mr. Speaker, then why don't we have government grocery stores to keep grocers honest? Why don't we have government contractors for car mechanics to keep car mechanics honest? Why don't we have government steel companies to keep steel companies honest? Why don't we have government car companies—oh, excuse me, that's the wrong example.

The point is, Mr. Speaker, the public option is not here to keep the private sector honest. The public option is here

to make the private sector go away. That is the purpose of this bill, and the American people should see it. And we, in August, ought to be given the opportunity to talk to them about it.

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today's Wall Street Journal cites a quote from then-candidate Obama while out on the campaign trail. Mr. Obama railed against a health plan that included drastic cuts for seniors, saying, "If you count on Medicare, it would mean fewer places to get care and less freedom to choose your own doctors. You'll pay more for your drugs. You'll receive fewer services. You'll get lower quality. I don't think that's right. In fact, "it ain't right" was his exact quote.

Well, I couldn't have said it better, Mr. President. It is so troubling that this plan that your party is putting before us proposes to do exactly that. The plan would cut a total of \$538 billion from Medicare, \$172 billion from Medicare Advantage alone.

We need a plan that works with our seniors, not against them.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

LET'S UNDERSTAND REFORM BEFORE VOTING ON IT

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

Mr. PETRI. Wisconsin businessman John Torinus had a column in the July 25 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel which I commend to everyone.

Entitled "Health care architects must face fiscal reality," Mr. Torinus pointed out six serious flaws in the health care reform plan. For example, the proposed 8 percent payroll tax on companies which don't provide coverage. Mr. Torinus' company, like many others, spends about 15 percent of payroll on health care. These businesses would save money by opting out of health care and instead paying the 8 percent tax.

President Obama promises that if you like your health insurance, you can keep it. Don't count on it. The House bill proposes a 2.5 percent penalty on people who don't buy mandatory insurance. For someone earning \$40,000, that's \$1,000, or about one month's premium for a family.

With insurance companies required to accept all comers, many people would skip insurance and instead pay

the \$1,000 penalty until a substantial medical need arises. That is what Mr. Torinus says is happening in Massachusetts under a similar plan.

LET'S LEARN LESSONS FROM HEALTH CARE FAILURES

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the President is going to be a stone's throw from the Tennessee border when he is out on the trail speaking with people. And I have no doubt he is going to have something to say about health care and say we can't put off health care reform any longer. And most people agree that we need some smart reforms on cost, on access, on insurance liability and on insurance accountability. I would also say that we need to heed the warnings that will come from some of the public option experiments that have taken place in our States.

My home State of Tennessee is home to one of these public option experiments. And our governor, a Democrat, has even called this a disaster. Now, 15 years after that experiment being put in place, our State is still digging out from a system that went horribly wrong, and it is a system that rationed care and cost billions more each year than anticipated.

I have asked the administration repeatedly for assurances if they understand what went wrong. I am still waiting. Let's learn these lessons from TennCare.

TRAVAILLE, TRAVAILLE, TRAVAILLE

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, a lot of the problems in this country can be alleviated with a good job. There's nothing like a good job. And that's why the folks in southwest Ohio were so excited last fall when a fresh-faced young Senator from Illinois came to town and promised that he would fully support the enrichment plant down in Piketon, Ohio, creating 8,000 new jobs. People had parades, they were excited.

The Senator, now our President, sent a letter to our governor on September 2 reiterating his promise. Big groundbreaking on July 15, one of our colleagues, ZACK SPACE, was there, and said there are thousands of jobs at stake. Our Democratic Governor, Ted Strickland, wrote to the President in March—Without timely approval of the loan guarantee, the many thousands of new jobs being created will be delayed or perhaps lost.

But as it says in my daughter's favorite bedtime story, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, "Oh, no." What happened today was the Department of Energy said

there will be no loan guarantee, \$2.5 billion will be lost, 8,000 jobs will not be created. But fear not, Mr. Speaker, they have not yet rejected the application of a French company, and the French company, no jobs, no investment, and rather than jobs, jobs, jobs, we should say *travaille, travaille, travaille*.

STOP THE INSANITY AND FIX THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I come from Michigan where we have a 15.2 percent unemployment rate. And the thing that we hear in Michigan is where are the jobs?

We come to Washington and we now hear that we are going to have a radical socialization of America's health care system, that we are going to rush to misjudgment, that we will not allow the American people's voices to be heard over the August break so that their Members can come here and accomplish health care reform, not merely in a rush, but most importantly, correctly.

When I go home this August, I would like to be able to converse with my constituents about the best way to do this in our hard-pressed State. And I know for a fact that they will want health care done right, and they will tell this body to stop the insanity and fix the economy and do the job we sent you to do.

ADVICE FROM A SURGEON RE- GARDING GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Last week, I received a letter from a constituent, Dr. Harry Levine, who was a surgeon in the U.S. and Canada for 60 years. Dr. Levine said, "As a surgeon who worked in Canada and the U.S. for 60 years with two of the highest degrees in the world of surgery"—he was a fellow in the Royal College of Surgery in Canada, in the United States he serves as a diplomat on both the American Board of Surgery and the National Board of Medical Examiners—"I have unparalleled experience in all levels of society, from grinding dirt-level poverty to the most privileged. Please take this advice from me. This medical insurance program now up for a vote in Washington will be nothing short of a national calamity in every respect involving everyone and sparing no one. I cannot stress to you the extent to which chaos, illness, and needless death will befall everyone."

According to Dr. Levine, under government-run health care, people become numbers and lose their identity—