

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—

you're a pest, not a patient. Don't take my word for it, ask your doctor. Ask them how government-run health care will change your life or shorten it.

PROTECT GM WORKERS' HEALTH BENEFITS

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, my father retired from General Motors after over 40 years. When General Motors closed their assembly plant in Moraine, Ohio, thousands of lifelong GM employees lost their jobs. Now, due to the Obama administration's negotiated bankruptcy, the retirees are at risk of losing their health care benefits. Isn't it ironic that as this House tries to rush through a misguided health care bill, the Federal Government has denied IUE-CWA workers in my community their promised health care benefits?

With the Federal Government now owning over 60 percent of General Motors, it's time to honor the promises that were given to these workers, including my father.

I have joined my Ohio colleagues in asking President Obama to not discriminate between UAW and non-UAW retirees in protecting their health care benefits. I have also talked to the President of GM last week, asking for fair treatment of these employees. Now it's reported that GM will apply for more than \$10 billion in additional government funding.

If President Obama is serious about health care, he should start by protecting the GM workers who are losing their benefits in this administration's acquisition of General Motors.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 any other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

WHAT IS BEING REFORMED?

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I hear the word "reform" in the same sentence as health care, I wonder what is being reformed.

Fact 1: Some 80 percent of Americans are satisfied with their present health care.

Fact 2: Do we know what we're reforming? No. According to the Washington Post, the Democrats jumped at a chance to brief on what is in their 1,700-page Democrat health care bill.

"The bill is so complex," said Ways and Means Chairman RANGEL, "that when staff agreed to hold the session, response was overwhelming."

Fact 3: The Democratic plan will not save money. The nonpartisan CBO projected \$1 trillion in costs and mounting deficits, and they "do not see the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary to reduce the trajectory of Federal spending by a significant amount."

Fact 4: The bill has harmful cuts to Medicare Advantage that will result in more than 10 million seniors losing the program on which they rely. This plan would have your money spent, your current health care gone, no guarantee of satisfaction, all in the name of "reform."

KILLER OF THE HEALTH CARE BILL IS NOT POLITICS BUT POLICY

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have a 70-vote majority in this House. They have a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. They have a President with high personal popularity ratings. They don't need Republicans to pass their agenda. They remind us of this often, changing the House rules whenever we manage to score a tactical victory. Yet, Democrat leaders would have Americans believe that Republicans are obstructing passage of their health care legislation for political purposes.

If we had the power to stop the health care legislation, why didn't we? Republicans stop the stimulus bill that has run up debt without creating jobs? Why didn't we stop the cap-and-trade bill that killed hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and tax every American that owns a light switch? Why not? Because Democrats have the votes to pass whatever they like.

The health care agenda has hit the rocks not because of Republican politics, but because of Democratic policy. Americans know a government takeover of health care won't bring down costs; it will simply raise taxes, kill jobs, and lower quality of care. The killer of this bill is not politics but policy.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT A LOWER COST

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

Mr. CASSIDY. To achieve the three goals of patient-centered health care, we have to control costs to provide access to quality care. Now there are three imperatives to achieve this. We have to decrease the amount of money the patient is paying for administrative costs, increase the transparency so the patient knows what she's paying

for, and lastly, address lifestyle issues so that a healthier patient has higher quality health care at lower cost. This is transformational.

The current plan, however, the CBO says, is not transformational and in fact is based upon things which are very old: Medicaid, which is a Federal program currently bankrupting the States; and Medicare, which is bankrupting the Federal Government. This new third entitlement program builds upon those models, which is supposed to rescue the two that are currently bankrupting us. At a minimum, the solution should not cost more than the problem.

Let's address the imperatives of lowering administrative costs, increasing transparency, and addressing lifestyle issues, and develop a patient-centered health care plan, not one built upon two programs going bankrupt. On a bipartisan basis, let's achieve quality, accessible health care at an affordable cost.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A POSITIVE HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I had the occasion to speak with a businessman in Minnesota who employs 110 people in his business. And he told me, Michele, right now health care is the most expensive part of my business, and under President Obama's plan, it will cost me an additional \$12,000 a month and I just don't have that money. We know that the President's own figures say that about 5 million jobs will be lost in this country if his bill goes through.

There are so many small businesses, Mr. Speaker, who would love to offer health care, but it is the Congress that has made it so expensive for small businesses to offer health care.

Jobs will be created, but this is where they're going to be created, in government bureaucracy. This is the picture of the bureaucracy that the Democrats will create if we get government takeover of health care. And remember, the American consumer stands on this side of the bureaucracy, the doctor stands on this side. This is like America's newest board game. You have to navigate all of these agencies to get to the goal of your doctor and your health care. We can do better. The Republicans have a positive alternative.

□ 1515

WE CANNOT WAIT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, at least 46 million Americans are uninsured. By