

had small, smaller, smallest. We're not going to define it because we're going to let the health care administrator do it. This 1,017 pages is just a start.

LISTEN TO THE HEALTH CARE EXPERTS

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my constituents aren't the only ones concerned about the government takeover of health care.

Yesterday, health care leaders of Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, gathered at Ben Taub Hospital. They represent indigent public hospitals, nonprofits, private systems, and some of our cutting-edge research institutions. These nationally renowned leaders had three messages for lawmakers in Congress:

One, they have no idea what is in this massive health care bill nor how it affects the patients they treat. They've had virtually no input in health care reform, and it's too important to rush through the House in the next few days.

Dr. Larry Kaiser, a surgeon and the president of the University of Texas Health Science Center, said, "I liken it to taking out a tumor. There's a time when there's an urge to get it done quickly, but that's when mistakes can be made. That's the time to take it slowly and carefully."

Why aren't we listening to these health care experts? Now is not the time to rush this bill through.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, troubled about the Democrats' proposed government takeover of our health care system. The Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, has confirmed that this legislation will not reduce costs but will, rather, drive costs even higher for American families. They confirmed this weekend that a mandate on business would tend to reduce the hiring of workers at or near the minimum wage. They also pointed out that employers would be expected to pass the costs of fees on to workers in the form of lower wages.

This government takeover will burden our economy, and it will stifle economic growth. Instead of a takeover, Congress should act on free market and Tax Code health care reforms to make our system better. The President and his majority in Congress failed to produce jobs with the so-called "stimulus." In fact, things have only gotten worse. Why should we trust them with the government takeover of health care?

BIPARTISANSHIP IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, so many Members have come up to talk about this plan, the plan that, in fact, cannot get even all of the Democrats to vote for it, and it doesn't have so much as one Republican voting for it. Hopefully, the American people understand Republicans believe there is a problem. We know, in fact, there are uninsured and underinsured. There are Americans who are concerned about losing their insurance, and of course, we all know that the Federal program, such as Medicare, is fraught with waste, fraud and abuse.

What we don't hear is that we can attack the problems on a bipartisan basis. Lower the cost of health care by eliminating defensive medicine, by lowering the threat against every doctor, if he or she doesn't simply do every possible test, even if it's simply running up the tab.

We can, in fact, work on a bipartisan basis on health care. The first thing we have to do is agree to do it piece by piece and to attack those things which either cause people to be uninsured or, in fact, cause people not to be able to afford their insurance.

I urge you to think about that, Mr. Speaker.

MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of all Americans have health insurance, the majority of whom like their plans. The Democrat bill, as drawn out, does a couple of things.

First of all, it doesn't keep the President's promise. The President promises that, if you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it, but as stated earlier on pages 16 and 17 of the bill, you're not going to be able to do that.

The other thing is the plan was to lower the cost curb, but the CBO testified that the costs for both plans go up. The cost for the private insurance plan goes up. The cost for the public option goes up. A public option will undercut private insurance, driving people into a public plan.

Now, in countries that have one public insurance plan, the only way they control costs is by rationing care. If you don't trust me, just ask the Canadians, the Brits, the folks in New Zealand, and in Australia where you have a bureaucrat deciding whether you get the care you need or not. This is not the type of plan we want. We want to maintain the doctor-patient relationship.

HEALTH CARE REFORM THAT EMPOWERS THE AMERICAN CITIZEN

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, recently, I was asked during a radio interview if I thought legislation for health care reform would pass the House sometime this year. My answer was, "I hope so." All of us want more affordable, better, more accessible health care for our citizens. The question is: How do we achieve this very important goal?

Unfortunately, the plan embodied by this diagram is not the way to do that. This plan will cost millions of jobs. It will cut almost a half trillion dollars out of Medicare, hurting seniors. It will raise taxes on small businesses, making it harder to provide health insurance. As the CBO has told us, when fully implemented, it will raise the cost of health care by over \$200 billion. That's more than \$2 trillion in 10 years.

Unfortunately, the House leadership who are promoting this plan and those who are supporting it have forgotten the physician's principle of "first do no harm." This plan will do great harm to health care for each and every American citizen. We must defeat this plan, and we must enact legislation that will truly be about empowering the American citizen, and that will be about what is best for their health care.

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PRICELESS

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to draw your attention to the board here. Mr. Speaker, there are 435 Members of the House of Representatives. There are 256 Democrats in the House of Representatives. It takes 218 votes to pass the government takeover of health care. Mr. Speaker, it's priceless that the Democrats can't come up with 218 votes to pass the government takeover of health care.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, you know, with all of the talk of health care reform over the last several weeks, we haven't heard anything from the majority with regard to medical malpractice reform. This is kind of interesting because if any of you actually walk into a doctor's office across the country and ask them what's the one thing that could really help with health care in this country with costs and care and coverage, they would say medical malpractice reform.

Today across this country, doctors do not look at patients as patients. They look at them as future lawsuits. If we

aren't careful, this country won't have doctors anymore because anybody that's interested in going to med school will go to law school.

The government takeover of health care fails to address the concerns of the people that we really should listen to the most, and that's the doctors.

HEALTH CARE TAX ON SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to tell you about a constituent of mine by the name of Cathy Magill. She represents a personal side of this health care debate. Cathy is a small business owner in my district; she and her brother own a company that installs windows in new homes. In a difficult economy, she now has something else to worry about, a new tax she will have to pay if she doesn't spend thousands of dollars a year on health insurance for each of her employees. They have told her they would rather keep the money in their own pockets and pay for health care the way they see fit.

If the Obama health care reform bill is passed, Cathy told me she will have no choice but to fire two of her employees so she can provide health insurance for the remaining three.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a job killer. We should make health care more affordable and accessible to every American, but this is not the way to do it. And people like Cathy Magill in my district deserve better, and so do the American people.

NEW TAX ON JOB CREATORS

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

Mr. REICHERT. Last week, I received a note from a constituent about the proposed government takeover of our health care. She said, As a small business owner, we are struggling already. We provide our employees and their families with insurance and cannot afford additional taxes. Please continue to fight this fight, keep up this fight, keep us from rising taxes, keep us from costing small businesses more taxes.

That's why I stand here today to give a voice to my constituents who are extremely afraid, frightened, worried about this massive \$1.1 trillion proposal and a new 8 percent tax on their small business.

The stimulus isn't stimulating the economy. Unemployment continues to rise, and now we want to slap a new tax on job creators.

People are hurting in my district and across the Nation. This bill is out of touch with reality, out of touch with the American people.

SOMEBODY MUST PAY THE BILL

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, we all know that America's got the best health care of any nation in the world. But when some people can't afford it and some people don't have access to it, then that is a crisis and we need some reform. But we need the right kind of reform. We don't need this Democratic plan that's being rushed through the House.

I've been talking to my constituents back home and they say, We want to make sure that we have the right to choose our own doctor. They say, We want to have the right to get the treatment we need when we need it.

And that's what the Republican reform does.

That's not what the Democratic reform does. In fact, stop and think about this: Democrats will tell you health care is expensive, but we're going to provide more health care to more people, and it's not going to cost anybody any money except maybe a few millionaires. Those numbers don't add up.

You better think about it because somebody's got to pay the bill. It might just be you.

THE CHANGE AMERICA DIDN'T VOTE FOR

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

Mr. SCHOCK. In the last campaign we heard a lot about if you don't make more than \$250,000 a year, you won't pay any new taxes. So what does the new majority do? Their first act in Congress is to pass the \$787 billion stimulus package meant to jolt the economy. Yet all it has done is jolt the national debt up to a new high of \$11.5 trillion.

Next, the new majority comes forward and says, We want to decrease carbon outputs. We want to pass a cap-and-tax proposal meant to limit carbon monoxide. Well, that bill, if passed, will limit jobs in America by over 2.7 million fewer jobs, and now we're hearing that they want to limit costs on health care. In actuality, this plan, their health care proposal, will limit access to care. Their bill will actually decrease the number of jobs and will actually add a tax on every small business owner in America in the form of an 8 percent increase in payroll taxes.

More taxes, fewer jobs. I don't think that's the change America voted for.

FOR-PROFIT HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Why are there 50 million Americans without any health in-

surance? It's pretty simple. It's because people cannot afford to pay the premiums. Why is it that half the bankruptcies in the United States are connected to people not being able to pay their hospital bills? It's because the copays and deductibles are through the roof and they threaten family financial stability.

Why do these things happen? It's because we have a for-profit health insurance system; \$1 out of every \$3 goes for the operation as a for-profit system—\$800 billion a year for corporate profits, stock options, executive salary, advertising, marketing, the cost of paperwork. If we took that money and put it into care, we would have enough to cover everyone.

This is a battle between the insurance companies and our people. We're either going to have a government of the people, by the people and for the people, or we're going to have a government of the insurance companies, by the insurance companies, and for the insurance companies. I think we remember what Lincoln said at Gettysburg. He didn't say that the insurance companies were going to run the country.

WHERE THE JOBS ARE

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

Mr. SIMPSON. I repeatedly heard Members come to the floor to ask the question, Where are the jobs? The Obama administration and congressional Democrats told us that with the passage of their \$787 Billion stimulus package that unemployment would not rise above 8 percent. Well, it now stands at 9½ percent.

It's a legitimate question: Where are the jobs?

Let me tell you where the jobs are. As reported on the news last night on the spending of the stimulus package, we are spending your tax dollars on building a living snow fence for \$80,000; \$31.5 million on a bike trail in California; \$1.5 million on a deer underpass; \$3.4 million on a turtle tunnel in Florida. That's right, a turtle tunnel in Florida. I hope some of the money from this stimulus is going to train the turtles as to the advantages of using a turtle tunnel.

These are the Democratic stimulus dollars at work, your tax dollars at work.

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. You know, people come to the U.S. from all points of the globe to get the medical treatment that America is best at all across the world. It's the best system ever invented, and we've evolved it over these 200-plus years.