

sad. I was both angry and put off, I must say, in the references to section 1233. Today in the Washington Times they cite a misrepresentation by Republican leadership that talk about this leading the path down to government-encouraged euthanasia.

Yesterday, we heard one of our Republican colleagues talk about actually having the government—I want to be careful about this—that “seniors being in a position of being put to death by their government.”

Mr. Speaker, looking at this legislation that is a result of a bipartisan effort to allow senior citizens and their families to know the choices that face them, nothing mandatory, no government bureaucrat, simply giving them the choice to have information. Shame on people who use senior citizens as a prop to try to scare people.

□ 1015

PAYING FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to talk about something everyone, Republicans and Democrats, cares about: paying for health care reform.

There is so much evidence that prevention at the individual and community levels will produce hundreds of billions of dollars of savings. Trust for America's Health has shown, based on existing community prevention programs, that we could get a return of 5.6 to 6.2 times on every dollar spent. Private industry has also shown a similar savings in less than 10 years. Another report will show that we would save \$652 billion over 10 years by getting healthier individuals to Medicare and by reducing advancing disease when they enter the system. This kind of prevention is in the bill.

The CBO will score prevention if we give them reliable data, and that would make the true cost of this bill much less than \$1 trillion. So let's cover the Territories and not cut important programs out of the bill. Let's score prevention, and let's pass a bill that honors health care as a right and that reestablishes the United States as the leader we ought to be.

SCIENCE CZAR

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President has appointed over 30 new czars in the Federal bureaucracy, and I'm concerned about the President's new science czar. John Holdren detailed and advocated draconian population control methods in a 1977 textbook that he coauthored.

In it, they state, “Some coercive proposals deserve discussion, mainly be-

cause some countries may ultimately have to resort to them unless current trends in birth rates are rapidly reversed.”

They go on to speculate that a program in India to vasectomize fathers of large families could have been successful with “massive assistance from the developed world.” The same chapter later promotes readily available abortion services as one of the milder methods governments can promote to reduce family size. Some of their ideas are quite bizarre. This is the same man who has the ear of the President on some of the most important decisions of the day.

Clearly, we need to watch the office of the science czar carefully with an eye toward whether Dr. Holdren will promote policies that maintain our cherished liberties or policies that call for the heavy hand of government in our private lives.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, this is our year for health insurance reform. The private health insurance industry has reaped enormous profits over the last 9 years while Americans' wages have barely increased at all. On average, 30 percent of the \$1.8 trillion in premiums that Americans pay to health insurance companies pays for overhead costs—salaries, administrative, lobbying, and profits—rather than for health care. Americans cannot afford that waste of scarce dollars. Our health reform legislation will limit such overhead spending to no more than 15 percent.

We have to focus our priorities on the quality of health care itself. For example, the diabetes epidemic demonstrates dramatically how critical preventative medicine is to America's children. One-third of all children born this decade are expected to develop diabetes in their lifetimes. The prevention of diabetes will make America healthier, and we will avoid the enormous future costs of diabetes treatment.

Now is the time to act on health care reform.

THE SUCCESS OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, our Republican friends, perhaps in a bit of wishful thinking, are trying to convince the American public that the American Recovery Act has been a failure.

Well, they're going to have a hard time convincing my constituents in Louisville, Kentucky, where it was just reported that home sales have increased by 27 percent this month over

last year, almost all due to the \$8,000 first-time home buyer's credit that we put in that act. They're going to have a hard time convincing the people at GE's Appliance Park, where they're about to bring 400 jobs back from China to Kentucky to build a revolutionary, energy-saving water heater. They're going to have a hard time convincing the 95 percent of my constituents who have had their paychecks increased because of the almost \$300 billion in tax cuts that were part of that act.

No, Mr. Speaker, the American Recovery Act is far from a failure. It is succeeding to rebuild the economy of this country.

HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN ISSUE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, families in America deserve a health care system that works. A parent should not have to worry about paying for either high health care insurance premiums or putting food on the table or paying their mortgages.

In fact, each year in my district, 5,200 seniors who hit the doughnut hole are forced to pay their full drug costs despite having part D drug coverage. The Tri-Committee bill provides these seniors with immediate relief by cutting brand-name drug costs in the doughnut hole by 50 percent.

In 2008, my district had 1,490 health care-related bankruptcies, caused primarily by the high health care costs not covered by insurance. The Tri-Committee bill caps out-of-pocket costs at \$10,000 per year, ensuring that no individual will have to face financial ruin because of high health care costs.

For these reasons, I stand here to advocate for American families who are struggling in every corner. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and to support health care reform. This is not a political issue. This is a human issue.

JOB CREATION

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight where some of the stimulus jobs are located. While some States have refused the stimulus money that is available, I want to acknowledge some of the areas that are using the stimulus funds to create jobs today.

In my State of New Jersey, the funding has gone towards good-paying jobs for New Jersey workers. Six thousand summer jobs were created for New Jersey youth using funds allotted under the Workforce Investment Act Youth Recovery Act. Over 60 jobs have been created in transportation, and at least 20 people are currently working on housing improvements for the Woodbridge Public Housing Authority.

At least 62 people are working for the Newark Housing Authority, including union workers, to renovate vacant apartments and to prepare for future construction. These are just a few of the projects, but it's not just New Jersey that is seeing jobs increase as a result of the stimulus funding.

Yesterday, The New York Times highlighted Perry County, Tennessee, where hundreds of laid-off workers are now, once again, back to work. Since deciding to use the stimulus money to employ 300 jobs, ranging from the State Transportation Department to small businesses, the unemployment has dropped from 27 to 22 percent in that county. That's where the jobs went.

AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE HEALTH CHOICES ACT ADDRESSES PRIMARY CARE

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, finding a uniquely American solution to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, meaningful health coverage must also ensure adequate access to health care providers and services.

Primary care providers are on the front line of our health care system, treating acute and chronic problems and keeping costly conditions from worsening. Yet, despite this essential role, it is primary care where we face the most acute shortages.

Since 1998, the percentage of residents choosing primary care has dropped from 50 percent to 20 percent. By 2025, America will have a shortage of 46,000 primary care providers.

I am very proud that the provisions in the health care reform legislation that is moving through Congress will address this impending crisis. It provides scholarships and loan repayments to primary care providers. It increases payments for primary care services. It eliminates copayments for Medicare beneficiaries who seek preventative care, and it creates incentives for doctors and nurses to coordinate care for patients with multiple chronic conditions.

These are significant reforms that will improve access to primary care, that will improve health outcomes, and that will improve health care costs. We should support better health care for Americans by supporting health care reform.

SMALL BUSINESSES CANNOT AFFORD THE STATUS QUO IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I just held a roundtable in my district to hear from small business owners on how they feel about health care reform. Each of the small business owners

agreed that the system is broken and that keeping the status quo will only hurt small businesses in New Mexico.

With skyrocketing health care costs, many of these small businesses have been forced to consider layoffs and have been forced to consider lowering wages. In some cases, discontinuing insurance coverage for their employees has been the only way to avoid going out of business.

There is no doubt that our broken health care system is bad for America's small businesses. We can, and we must do better. We need a long-term, viable solution that creates stability, that prevents insurance companies from cherry-picking customers and businesses. We need a solution that supports a healthy workforce and that improves employee productivity. Now is the time to reform our health care system. Our small businesses cannot afford the status quo.

THE OBAMA-PELOSI GOVERNMENT HIJACKING OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about the Obama-Pelosi government hijacking of health care, the more we recognize how terrible the plan is. Let me point out just a few things that we've recently learned about the Democrat bill.

First and foremost, the Democrat bill creates a government-run health care plan that will ration care, that will remove choice and that will decrease the quality of health care for Americans. The bill imposes not only an employer mandate on health benefits, but it also creates a fleet of government auditors who will sail in to inspect every employer in the Nation to assess the health benefits they offer to a standard even the Democrats admit they haven't ascertained yet.

Individuals and employers will be taxed to pay for the public plan, and an independent commissioner, not accountable to anyone, will set the reimbursement rate for health care providers and will have power over what will and will not be covered.

Everyone over age 65 will be required to have an end-of-life consultation with their physicians and to assess that plan every 5 years. Democrats don't know why any Member of Congress would read a bill that's over 1,000 pages. Now we are learning why—apparently because they don't want us to know or the American people to know what the health care plan holds.

PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I hope that our friends on the Republican side of the aisle who don't

want us to fix our health care system will listen to their constituents when they go home in August because they'll hear stories like I've heard in Connecticut.

A woman in Thomaston, Connecticut, contacted me about her own horrific experience. She had a pulmonary embolism and was told by her doctor that she was in danger of losing her leg, but her insurance company decided not to pay for the surgery on the grounds that it was cosmetic. Her appeal was denied, and she lost the leg.

One of the biggest lies I hear about our health care system is that, if you have insurance, you're all set. Well, this woman had coverage, and it failed her. The cost of our broken system can't be measured just in dollars and cents. It's so much more. We have a system that just doesn't value keeping people healthy, and we can change this by passing health care reform.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 19. Joint resolution granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER WILL RUIN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, think about it—government-run health care.

Now, the argument being made by my friends on the other side is that the only reason it hasn't worked everywhere it has been tried is that the right people aren't in charge. Think about that. It has never worked anywhere. It doesn't work.

An individual I represent, who lives in Mission Viejo, was a doctor for 60 years in the United States and in Canada. He holds two of the highest degrees in medicine. He said it not only hurts the poor; it hurts the wealthy, it hurts everybody. If you want to ruin health care, have the government take it over.

Now, the argument is we'll just have the government compete with the private sector. Think about that. Where does the government get the money? From you—the taxpayers—and the private sector has to charge people to provide health care. There is no way in the world the private sector can compete with government when the government is funded by unlimited amounts of money that they extort from you, the working people.

If you want health care in this country to be of quality and to be good,