

the best health care system and financing, and that is the operation we are undertaking here in the Congress.

#### WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONGRESS?

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, before the August recess, I introduced a resolution to hold Members accountable for their health care reform decisions. House Resolution 615 simply states that if Members of Congress vote for the government takeover of health care, they agree to give up their private insurance paid for by the taxpayers and enroll in the government-run plan. So far, 78 Republican Members have joined as cosponsors but not one Democrat.

Over 750,000 Americans from every State have contacted my office in support of this resolution. They are demanding that if government-run health care is good enough for Americans young and old, then it should certainly be good enough for the Members of Congress and their families.

How dare Congress force government-run health care down the throats of our fellow Americans and not be willing to choose it for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard people speak out on this. Isn't it time for every Member of this body to stand up and be accountable to the people they represent by taking a dose of their same medicine they prescribe to their constituents?

To my fellow Congressmen, won't you now join me in cosponsoring House Resolution 615 and prove that personal accountability finally does exist in Washington?

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, throughout the August recess, like my colleagues, I met with thousands of my constituents in Maryland's Fourth Congressional District. I heard the stories of so many who go to work every day but who also go without health insurance or with inadequate insurance to meet their family's needs.

I heard from seniors whose out-of-pocket costs are soaring, families with insurance but who have been broken and bankrupt because of a tragic illness, parents concerned about their newly adult children who are no longer eligible for health benefits, and small businesses that want to provide health insurance but can't because of the staggering costs.

It's time for us to stop talking and to start acting to provide quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all. We can't allow the loudest voices

backed by corporate special interests, health insurance companies, and drug companies to stand in the way of meaningful reform. And we can't just tinker around the edges of reform either without bringing down costs and providing accountability.

I join my colleagues in Congress in support of a robust public health insurance option that relies on Medicare providers as an essential mechanism to encourage real competition, lower costs for all Americans and keep insurance and drug companies honest.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight President Obama will address a joint session of Congress to make yet another appeal for his health care plan.

According to an analysis by CBS News, the President has already delivered 27 speeches on the issue of health care. Tonight will mark speech number 28. Yet with each passing day, as the American public digs deeper into the details of the plan, they learn that the President's rhetoric doesn't always fit with reality.

Pushing for a government takeover of health care with new spin will not change the minds of the American people who strongly and correctly oppose a government-run insurance plan.

Tonight the President should reset on his health care plan and begin working with Republicans on bipartisan reform that addresses the concerns of Americans and that the American people can support.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Maureen Dowd had it right in her column today when she said there's a lot of confusion and skepticism out in the American public about the health care plan. There isn't, however, a lot of opposition. What I've found is that once you spend time with the American people explaining things like the public option, they become very supportive, as national polls now show. And why shouldn't they? There are lots of examples of public and private competition in this country.

We spend billions of dollars as a society on bottled water every day when there is a public option, a much less expensive public option, turning on the faucet. Millions of Americans every day face the choice, they can drive their car to work or they can take the public option, a bus or a metro line.

We understand in this country that sometimes competition and choice make a difference for the American people. When we adopt the public option as part of our health care reform package, we will make a difference in

the health care delivery system in this country, and the American people will benefit from it.

#### PASSING ALONG CONCERNS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM FROM ARKANSAS' THIRD DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, during the August work period, I heard from thousands of Arkansans about health care reform. I promised my constituents that I would bring their stories and thoughts back to Washington so we can enact commonsense health reforms and have wide support throughout the country.

While residents of the Third District are supportive of reform to cut the cost of health care and make it more affordable and accessible to all Americans, there is a consensus that the reforms currently under consideration by Congress aren't what they want. The overwhelming majority of citizens I heard from don't want the government to federalize their health care.

We can create a better plan for health care reform that includes fixing the fraud in the Medicare and Medicaid systems, implementing tort reform and allowing Americans to own their own health insurance like they own their own car insurance.

Congress needs to listen to what the American public is saying. Do not support federalizing health care. Don't destroy the good things of the American health system while trying to fix the bad.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I, like other Members of Congress, went home and had a townhall meeting on health care and met with many doctors. What I found is that the American public knows that the system is broken and that we need to change. The difficulty I have got in my district is I'm for a public option. But I'm not drawing a line in the sand to say I won't vote for a bill that improves the health care system, that takes care of the problem concerning preexisting conditions, that gives more wellness and preventative programs and that sees that we have more family doctors and health centers.

For that, the liberals in my district, and I'm a liberal, are upset with me because I haven't said I won't vote for a bill that doesn't have a public option. On the other hand, there are people that are against health care at all, and if I vote for anything, they will be upset.

Tonight the President of the United States will address the Nation. I plan

to listen, and I plan to support the President of the United States in providing health care and making the greatest reforms in welfare moves for the people of our Nation and improvement in health care since 1965 when Medicaid and Medicare were passed. Those were great days for America.

#### HONORING NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MARILYN RHYNE HERR

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former New Jersey Superior Court Judge Marilyn Rhyne Herr for her 15 years of outstanding service to our State. I was honored to be part of the celebration recently honoring Judge Herr as her portrait was unveiled for permanent display in the Hunterdon County, New Jersey, courthouse.

Judge Herr was sworn in to the New Jersey Superior Court in 1989, becoming the second woman resident of Hunterdon County to be named a Superior Court judge and the first assigned to the bench in our home County. She was for many years in the family division, a court Judge Herr called the most important court there is.

More than a jurist, Judge Herr served for many years as a Girl Scout leader and two terms as president of the Rolling Hills Girl Scout Council. She is a patron of the arts, an avid reader of historical biographies, a former pilot, world traveler, and competitive tennis player.

Like my wife and me, she is a resident of Clinton Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and my wife and I are proud to call Marilyn Rhyne Herr our friend and neighbor.

Congratulations, Judge Herr, and thank you for your service to New Jersey.

□ 1030

#### THE WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to commend my colleague, Representative PAUL TONKO, for his work on the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009, a bill that I proudly cosponsored and supported during the committee markup process.

Much of our clean energy future depends on our ability to harness and use the renewable power of wind. New Mexico is well positioned to be a leader in renewable energy development, and wind and solar energy have the potential to power an entire country.

New Mexico's wind energy resources are vast. And as home to Department

of Energy national laboratories in New Mexico, with Sandia and Los Alamos, New Mexico is a hub of scientific discovery and innovative technology.

We are also investing in clean energy job training and education programs. In my district, the North American Wind Research and Training Center at Mesalands Community College has established curriculum and provided job training opportunities to create a strong labor force to support a robust renewable energy economy.

Still, we have a lot of work to do, and we must continue to invest in renewable energy research and development. Investment in science and technology will be the key to our clean energy future, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S JOINT SESSION ADDRESS

(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, tonight when the President addresses the joint session of Congress, I hope that he will turn a new page in the health care debate, setting aside demands for a government-run, taxpayer-funded health care system and instead he will express support for real reforms that will reduce costs and increase access to quality health care for everyone regardless of preexisting conditions.

I hope to hear that the President finally will fix the medical malpractice crisis that continues to drive costs up and drives doctors out of Illinois and other States. I hope the President will finally commit to our small businesses by allowing them to band together in an association health plan so that they can provide affordable health care to their employees. And, finally, I hope that the President will join Members on both sides of the aisle to end waste, fraud and abuse plaguing Medicare and robbing seniors of much-needed health benefits.

It is my hope that after tonight's address the President and congressional Democrats will focus on bipartisan, commonsense reforms that will actually increase health care affordability and accessibility for all.

#### IT'S TIME TO ENACT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. TITUS. As Congress returns to Washington to focus on the Nation's business, we bring back the many stories we heard while we were home in our districts.

I spent much of August traveling around my district in southern Nevada talking to folks about health care. I held roundtables, I convened a Congress on the Corner, I participated in

telephone town halls, and I visited community health clinics. I shared my views on reform; I dispelled many of the myths that were circulating by those who want to protect the status quo; and I heard from people who cannot afford health care or found out that they don't have the coverage for the medical treatment that they need.

It is clear that we can no longer afford business as usual. The worst we can do is do nothing. The current health care system obviously isn't working, so it's time to enact real health care reform, health care reform that provides people with choice, lowers the cost of care, expands access, and provides Nevadans and all Americans with peace of mind should they or their families become ill.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN; IS WASHINGTON LISTENING?

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

Mr. PENCE. After a tumultuous month of townhall meetings across the Nation, the American people have spoken, and House Republicans are on the side of the American people.

As the President comes into this well of Congress tonight to deliver a speech on health care reform, one thing is clear: the American people don't want just another speech on health care; they want another health care plan.

What I heard back home is that the folks want us to take action here in Washington that will lower the cost of health insurance and lower the cost of health care in the long term, but the American people don't want us to launch a new government-run insurance plan that will lead to a government takeover of health care paid for with \$800 billion in higher taxes.

As the President knows, House Republicans have a broad range of legislative ideas, and we hope to hear and reflect on some of them tonight. Why not let Americans purchase health insurance the way Members of Congress can across State lines? Why not bring about reasonable restrictions and limits on medical malpractice claims to end the era of defensive medicine?

House Republicans will welcome the President of the United States respectfully to the well of Congress tonight, and we stand ready to work with the Democratic majority to solve our health care challenges.

The American people have spoken. Tonight we'll see if Washington is listening.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, ever since President Truman proposed a system