

Problem is, for anyone who has paid attention during the past 12 months, the message about the biggest government expansion into health care in our lifetime just doesn't add up.

Let's contrast fact from fiction and the language used in the new flier:

"The Affordable Care Act passed by Congress and signed by President Obama this year will provide you and your family greater savings and increased quality of care."

Fact: Most Americans will pay higher insurance premiums, according to the Congressional Budget Office. And more than 10 million seniors will see reduced benefits under their private Medicare Advantage plans. Overall quality will decline as fewer doctors take on Medicare patients.

"Your guaranteed Medicare benefits won't change—whether you get them through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan."

Fact: Medicare Advantage, a private option in Medicare, will be cut by \$136 billion. On April 22, the chief actuary for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported that half of all seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage would lose their coverage under the new health care bill by 2017. The guarantee that benefits won't change isn't a guarantee at all for millions of seniors who prefer using private insurance companies that provide their Medicare coverage.

"Your choice of doctors will be preserved."

Fact: Cuts to Medicare will total nearly \$500 billion, hitting hospitals, home health providers, physicians and more. Doctors throughout the country have seen their Medicare payments reduced in recent years and expect more cuts in the future because of ObamaCare.

A February survey by three national neurosurgeon groups, for example, showed that 50% of neurosurgeons were reducing the number of Medicare patients they were accepting into their practice. The Mayo Clinic in Arizona has also started turning away Medicare patients. Other physicians are following suit. How is this preserving a senior's choice of doctors?

"If you're hospitalized, the new law also helps you return home successfully and avoid going back—by helping to coordinate your care and connecting you to services and supports in your community."

Fact: This is traditionally known as "home health care"—a program that helps treat patients at home for a short period. But in the ObamaCare plan, home health care will be cut by \$40 billion. Another contradiction in terms.

Last fall, the federal government launched an investigation into Humana for sending letters to seniors who were customers of the Medicare Advantage program during the health care debate.

It urged them to contact their congressman or senator because of the then-proposed cuts to the program. Under threat of shutting down the insurance company's contract with Medicare, Humana was told to stop sending such information out to its customers.

Yet today, we have the federal government offering its spin and fabrication on ObamaCare with no one holding it accountable. It is trying to convince seniors that despite almost half a trillion dollars in cuts, the new law "preserves and strengthens Medicare." Precious tax dollars are being spent on a public relations campaign to try to convince seniors that ObamaCare will keep "Medicare strong and solvent."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Record numbers of baby boomers will start retiring this year and draw Social Security benefits and sign up for Medicare. They are smart enough to understand that ObamaCare

is not a good deal for their golden years. A four-page brochure will not change their minds either. It will take more for this administration to "prove it" than a glossy, four-page pamphlet.

Gingrich, former speaker of the House, is founder of the Center for Health Transformation. Desmond is the center's CEO.

WORLD CANNOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO IRAN'S REPRESSION OF ITS OWN PEOPLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, a recent Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) article featured comments from Iranian-American journalist Roxana Saberi who spent 100 days in Iran's notorious Evin prison between February and May 2009 on espionage charges.

Saberi indicated that the day of her release was bittersweet, saying, "As they drove me away, I remember turning my head to the side and seeing the prison disappear behind me. And finally, I cried . . . I realized, however, that my tears were not just tears of joy, but they were also tears of sorrow for the many innocent prisoners I was leaving behind. Why was I freed while all these others are still there?"

Among those she was leaving behind were the two female Baha'i leaders who have been in jail for more than two years on baseless charges—Fariba Kamalabadi and Mahvash Sabat.

There are news reports that these two, in addition to the five male Baha'i leaders, are scheduled to have their fourth court session on Saturday, June 12—the same day as the anniversary of Iran's deeply flawed presidential election.

The RFE/RL article continues, "Saberi believes the media attention and international support she received during her ordeal led to her release."

Saberi's comments are consistent with the reflections of dissidents dating back to the Cold War. Time and again those who are unjustly languishing in prison have reported that their lives improved in captivity when President Reagan and others raised their cases by name. And in some instances, their freedom followed soon thereafter.

The U.S. and the rest of the free world must continue to speak with one voice about the deplorable human rights situation in Iran. We must continue to advocate for due process and a fair trial for these seven Baha'i leaders and for basic rights for the community as a whole which according to the recently released report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, "has long been subject to particularly severe religious violations in Iran."

The world cannot turn a blind eye to this regime's brutal repression of its own people.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION 3 OF THE SIXTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the State of Wyoming for enacting a resolution in support of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution. Enrolled Joint Resolution 3 of the Sixtieth Legislature of the State of Wyoming demands that Congress cease and desist from enacting mandates that are beyond the enumerated powers granted to the Congress by the United States Constitution.

This resolution joins a groundswell of support across America for a return to the federalist principles in our Constitution. I am proud to insert this resolution into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of the people of Wyoming.

Citizens, businesses and States across the country are bracing for the impact of the heavy handed government mandates in President Obama's healthcare plan. Momentum persists among some in Congress for additional federal mandates, taxes, and regulations that will burden State budgets and put entrepreneurs in Main Street America out of business.

There is another way. Our nation's founders left us a recipe for freedom and opportunity in our Constitution, under which the people of the United States consented to a government with limited powers. As stated in the 10th Amendment, all powers not given to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved for the States and the people. I have co-founded in the House of Representatives a 10th Amendment Task Force to advance the principles of federalism and disperse power back to States, local governments and individuals.

Before coming to Washington, I spent my entire adult life dealing with State issues—as a rancher, as a State legislator, and as State Treasurer. I am now astounded by the kinds of issues Members of Congress feel are appropriate for federal intervention.

States know their people better. They know their issues better. Let's return to States what States do best and maintain a strong limited government in Washington to do what it does best—securing the freedom, strength and integrity of this country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,046,148,615,770.79.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,407,722,869,476.99 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF STEVEN
FOSTER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Fire Chief Steven Foster for his 20 years of service to the Cosumnes Community Services District as he now retires.

The Cosumnes CSD serves an estimated 169,000 south Sacramento County residents in a 157-square mile area. Its award-winning parks and recreation services—including the operation of 83 CSD parks—operate exclusively within the Elk Grove community. It provides fire protection and emergency medical services for the cities of Elk Grove and Galt and unincorporated areas of south Sacramento County.

Foster, in addition to his duties as Cosumnes Fire Chief, has been an officer in the California Fire Chiefs Association and has been serving as chair of its legislative committee this year.

Over the years, Chief Foster became the Fire Marshal and ushered in new fire codes. Rising to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief, he was responsible for the Department budget and guided the purchase of numerous properties for future fire stations, managed the construction of Fire Station 72 in Franklin Reserve, and renovated and expanded Station 74 in Laguna.

Foster is a past President of the Sacramento County Fire Marshals and Fire Chiefs Associations. He also has been active in the Elk Grove Rotary Club.

Steven Foster is on the executive board for the Sacramento Area Fire Chaplaincy. He is a member of the Elk Grove Rotary Club, and is a past president for both the Sacramento County Fire Chiefs Association and Sacramento County Fire Marshals Association.

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Steven Foster on his retirement for his dedication to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BUILDON'S
COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING
YOUTH TO BECOME LOCAL AND
GLOBAL LEADERS IN SERVICE
TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize the Detroit Area Region chapter of buildOn, on the occasion of its 2010 recognition banquet. buildOn is a national organization dedicated to empowering youth to serve communities locally and globally. As a Member of Congress, it is both my honor and privilege to recognize the Detroit Area Region chapter of buildOn for its laudable contributions to my district, our state, and communities around the world.

The Detroit Area buildOn program, formerly known as "Building with Books," began in 1992 with the establishment of its first chapter

at Jackson Lumen Christi High School. This school was chosen for buildOn's first program because it is the alma mater of Jim Ziolkowski, the founder and now President & CEO of buildOn. The region has grown over the years to host 14 programs in high schools across the Detroit metro area, including three chapters in my congressional district, transforming the lives of over two hundred students a year. The students of buildOn make a positive difference in our community and in the lives of people around the world.

This year, buildOn's students in the Detroit Area have committed to over twenty thousand hours of community service and raised over \$42,000 to build schools in developing nations. In fact, since the inception of the program in the Detroit Area, buildOn students have volunteered over one hundred and sixteen thousand hours and raised over \$147,000 for charitable causes. buildOn students volunteer across the metro area for organizations including the Detroit Veterans Center, the Detroit Zoo, Gleaners Food Bank, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Baldwin Center, and a host of other deserving charities. In addition to local volunteerism, the members of buildOn embark on global trips to places such as Nicaragua, Mali, India, Haiti, Malawi and Senegal to participate in cultural exchanges and live with host families, while they work with the local community to build new schools. Since 2001, over one thousand students have traveled to developing countries to help build over sixty schools. This global perspective and volunteerism exemplifies the values of the buildOn program and its mission of, "Enhancing education and empowering youth in the U.S. to make a positive difference in their communities while helping people of developing countries increase their self-reliance through education."

Madam Speaker, in these challenging times, it is the work of dedicated volunteers like the students and staff of buildOn that brings hope to my local community and communities around the world. I look forward to the continued success of the Detroit Area buildOn chapter in all of its future endeavors, as well as many more years of inspiring support for our community and communities around the world.

HONORING PHYLLIS WEBER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Phyllis Weber upon her retirement as the Principal of El Portal School and Yosemite Park High School. After thirty-two years in education, Ms. Weber will be honored at a retirement party in El Portal, California on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

Ms. Weber received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Dayton in Ohio and her Master of Arts degree in environmental and outdoor education from San Francisco State University. After three years as an environmental investigator for the Environmental Protection Agency, she became an instructor for the Yosemite Institute starting in January 1976. The Yosemite Institute is one of the nation's leading environmental education organizations dedicated to bringing

school age children to Yosemite where they have an opportunity to experience and learn about the majestic place. Ms. Weber became known as a dynamic naturalist and teacher who had an amazing ability to connect with her students, a trait that carried forward throughout her career. At the Yosemite Institute she also met Mr. Art Baggett, a fellow instructor, and now her husband of more than thirty years.

In 1978, Ms. Weber began teaching first, second and third grades at El Portal Elementary School. She has also taught courses for a wilderness program for the Saratoga/Los Gatos High School District, winter ecology for Antioch College, mountain ecology for the University of California at Santa Cruz, Yosemite Natural History for the College of Marin and various college courses for the Yosemite Institute.

As the principal of Yosemite National Park's El Portal School and Yosemite Park High School since 2000, Ms. Weber has gracefully inspired teachers, staff and students to perform at high levels, as confirmed annually by the high test scores at the El Portal School. She has an uncanny ability to see the potential in her students and to draw them out in a way that helps them fulfill their potential. She has also developed a very positive reputation for her community through her school's ability to communicate with, and educate, Spanish-speaking students while making them feel welcome and part of the community.

Ms. Weber's hallmark has been her enthusiasm to encourage new and innovative programs proposed by her teachers, students and parents and to actively seek creative ways to fund these programs. She has become a master at working within school district budgets and has diligently travelled with the district office to Mariposa, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to support her budget, as well as working closely with parents and the local community on fundraising and support.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Ms. Weber has been very involved in public service and her family has been an integral part of the Yosemite community for several generations. As part of her public service, Ms. Weber was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Yosemite Natural History Association in November 1979 and she began her service on January 26, 1980. For the past thirty years she has served on the Board for the Yosemite Natural History Association, the Yosemite Association and now the Yosemite Conservancy, where she is currently the chair of the education and programs committee. In this role, Ms. Weber and her family share their deep passion for Yosemite and Mariposa County.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Principal Phyllis Weber upon her retirement from El Portal School and Yosemite Park High School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Weber many years of continued success.

HONORING STURGIS, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the city of Sturgis,